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Saipan Tribune

21 DAYS BEFORE Christmas

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75¢

Man, 31, pleads guilty to possessing child porn. » PAGE 3

Granddaughter of WWII veteran explores missed connections. » PAGE 6

DELTA OUTREACH

Fifty employees of Delta Air Lines of Japan and Saipan have their picture taken in front of the giant Christmas tree in Garapan after participating in a cleanup that spanned from the Carolinian Utt to the Paseo De Marianas yesterday afternoon. The delegation also planted trees and shrubs at the Paseo. Delta regional manager Hiroko Okada said these efforts are intended to promote partnership and strengthen the Japanese market. They are joined in this photo by Japanese Consul Hitoshi Kikuchi, center in white shirt, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, rightmost.

DAISY DEMAPAN

'Time to shift to H-visa class'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The time has come for businesses to comply with and for the federal government to enforce provisions to transition contract workers into a higher-paying H-visa system—that, or hire U.S. citizens in their place, business and government officials said Wednesday.

See H-VISA on Page 4

GOP interests to swarm CNMI?

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A change in U.S. Republican Party convention rules in 2012 could entice presidential hopefuls to the Commonwealth and other island territories. That rule change now requires presidential candidates to win a majority of eight delegations across the mainland and U.S. territory-wide to be entered into nomination and have their delegates counted at the Republican National Convention, scheduled for Cleveland, Ohio in July 2016.

» Trump consultant on island

This means, local GOP officials told *Saipan Tribune* this week, that a Republican hopeful need only to win eight out the 55-some states or territories to get on the national floor.

See GOP on Page 4

Pipeline's $14 million price tag alarms CUC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gilbane Federal's $8.8 million to $8.9 million estimate to build the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s "new" pipeline is out the window as the project's cost is now estimated to surpass $14 million, according to CUC counsel James Sirok.

Sirok also insisted that CUC doesn't want to act in a

See PIPELINE on Page 4

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LOCAL

The Japanese Consulate holds a reception for the birthday of Emperor Akihito.

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NATION

An attack at a center for the disabled kills 14 people and hurts a dozen others.

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SCIENCE & TECH

There is a growing effort to expose more public school children to computer science.

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Local

Christmas in the Marianas kicks off tomorrow, Dec. 5

The Marianas Visitors Authority's monthlong signature event in December, Christmas in the Marianas, will kick off tomorrow, Dec. 5, with the annual Christmas Tree Decoration Competition at the Paseo de Marianas.

This year's event will be led by Team PDI, local radio station KKMP, the CNMI Public School System, Paseo de Marianas Promoters, and other new stakeholders in support of MVA.

According to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, they had "a little uncertainty" about pushing through with the project due to budget cuts but the support of their partners enabled them to go ahead.

"We want to extend our appreciation to our partners, PDI and PDM," Tenorio said.

"Team PDI has always been a partner of MVA in the beginning. When we heard that the budget was cut, we all decided to jump in," PDI vice president Gordon Marciano said.

The month-long festivities will begin with the annual school-wide Christmas tree decoration competition.

Aside from elementary schools decorating trees with recyclable materials, middle and high schools will also be having their own competition, according to Marciano.

"For the past four years the middle school and high school have been inquiring about having a Christmas tree competition," Marciano said. "But we're not providing the tree. We gave them a challenge to build a Christmas tree with recycled stuff from the ground up."

The trees will be on display throughout the month.

Also a first this year, a perpetual trophy will be awarded to the winning school for extra bragging rights.

"After all these years, they have been requesting for a perpetual trophy. Last year they voted that they want one, so finally they're getting one," Marciano said.

Aside from the annual Christmas Caroling Competition of elementary and middle school students, a karaoke competition for teachers will also be held.

Upper grades on the other hand will have a dance, skit, and singing competition. These events will be held on Dec. 5, 12, and 19.

Also on Dec. 19, the Christmas Parade and Float Competition as well as the new KKMP costume contest will be held.

Marciano said eight schools will be competing in the float competition, complemented by floats from the private sector and government agencies.

"There will be a variety of illuminating floats coming down from Kristo Rai all the way to Paseo," Marciano said.

For the costume contest, Marciano said anyone can join and compete in the 23 categories that they have.

"There's about a thousand dollars worth of prizes for that one too," Marciano said.

The awarding ceremony will be held on Dec. 24, coinciding with the annual Mochitsuki Festival with the traditional pounding of rice.

After what the community has been through with the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor, the Christmas celebrations is a perfect opportunity for people to come together and have something to celebrate, Marciano said.

"We are very grateful to all our partners for taking the lead in organizing this year's Christmas in the Marianas and for coming together to see the continuation of this MVA signature event," MVA community projects manager Martin Duenas said. "We have partnered with Team PDI on this event for several years now, and we are confident that this year's celebration is going to be just as lively as in years past." ***(Fraulein Villanueva-Dizon)***

Man, 31, pleads guilty to possessing child porn

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 31-year-old man accused of downloading on his laptop 226 videos depicting child pornography pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court as part of a plea deal.

Vincent M. Songsong pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with one count of possession of child pornography. He will be sentenced on March 11, 2016.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a $250,000 fine, a $100 special assessment, and a three-year supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona required Songsong to remain in the custody of the U.S. Marshal until his sentencing.

Songsong told the court that he downloaded child pornography videos on his computer, not knowing the consequences of doing so. He said he did not watch all 226 videos.

» Defendant admits downloading 226 videos of minors engaged in sex

He is represented in the case by Colin Thompson, his court-appointed counsel.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing said that, from Feb. 17 to 25, 2014, Songsong downloaded all the 226 videos and installed them in a folder.

Lorfing said that Songsong knew that the video involved the use of a minor—specifically, a prepubescent minor or a minor who had not attained 12 years old—engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

The prosecutor disclosed that at least four victims had been contacted, but only three will be pursuing restitution against Songsong.

The amount of possible restitution is $5,000, for a total of $15,000 for the three victims.

80 students explore potential careers

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

Eighty high school students took part Wednesday in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's career exploration day to look at possible career paths they could pursue after graduation.

The students came from Marianas High School, Grace Christian Academy, Kagman High School, Marianas Baptist Academy, and Mt. Carmel School.

According to Chamber executive director Jill Arenovski, the students gained many insights on possible and much need careers on the island.

"We try to match them as best we can with the career possibilities listed on their applications, so that they get mentored in a business that they have an interest in," she said.

Although the career exploration day does not necessarily lead to employment in anticipation of the reduction and transition of the CW workforce, it could open the eyes of future workers to what lies ahead after high school graduation.

"Even those that intend to further their education may need employment to get by financially. This also connects them with a business manager that may be helpful to them as a reference in the future. We ask every year if these events are helpful and we get great feedback. These students need to know that they are needed by the business community, and that they can find a place to fit their talents. The Chamber is very proud to do its part in connecting these students with local businesses, and we are very grateful to the Chamber businesses that participated," said Arenovski.

Among the businesses that participated were DFS-T Galleria, Friends First Marketing, MarPac, Delta Management Corp., Island Training Solutions, First Hawaiian Bank, Mount Carmel School, IT&E, Dickerson & Quinn, No Ka Oi, Pacifica Insurance, Burger Comer Magliari, Hard Rock Café, MITA Travel, SDA School, SDA Clinic, *Saipan Tribune*, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Commonwealth Development Authority, Northern Marianas College, Pacific Islands Club, N15, CTSI, and I Love Saipan.

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Minority pushes anew for compliance with smoking law

The House minority bloc reiterated yesterday their concerns over the Saipan casino's alleged noncompliance with smoking prohibitions, urging authorities to enforce the law.

In a letter to casino regulators, all nine House minority bloc members reiterated their concern over the secondhand smoke that is "affecting employees and visitors" to the T Galleria, Hard Rock Café, and the Noodle House, which are all near the casino floor.

"We…request that proper authorities enforce the law," the lawmakers write.

The letter essentially responds to a letter from casino lawyer Viola Alepuyo to the Commonwealth Casino Commission last week, in which she argued that no law currently exists to ban smoking in casinos. Rather, she said, the casino is in fact an "enclosed area," and if gaming floors at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino can be exempted from smoking bans, then Best Sunshine must also be exempted.

In her letter, Alepuyo said there have been no citations to the casino since health officials inspected it. However, the lawmakers said the absence of a citation is not the same as full compliance.

The lawmakers said the casino "confused" the use of discretion on the part of health and law officials as compliance.

"A warning is not an invitation to continue committing the same offense. It is an invitation to correct the wrong and make amends," they said.

Casino vs live training facility

Alepuyo wrote last week that the Smoke Free Air Act does not regulate smoking in "enclosed gaming areas of casino establishments."

She also told reporters last week—citing public law definitions of "enclosed areas" and the law that exempts gaming floors from the smoking ban—that her client, Best Sunshine, is in full compliance with the law.

"The law in my mind is clear," she had said.

The lawmakers yesterday said local law does not show an exception for enclosed gaming area of a "live training facility."

"Neither the English language advertisements in the local newspapers, nor the invitations for the grand opening on Nov. 27…expressly mention a 'casino,'" the lawmakers said.

The lawmakers said the legislative history regarding amendments to the Smoke Free Air Act reflected widespread support for increasing the number of hotel rooms that could be designated for smoking to accommodate more tourists. Hard Rock Café or the T Galleria are not private rooms, the lawmakers wrote. They are businesses open to the public.

The lawmakers said the amendments to the Smoke Free Air Act centered on the personal choice of visitors to smoke in the privacy of their own rooms or not. The Smoke Free Air Act, though, was enacted to protect the non-smoking public from the risks of secondhand smoke "in public places," the lawmakers said.

The lawmakers said that the text of the smoking law amendment, Public Law 17—31, states, "Smoke from designated smoking rooms shall not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited."

"Even if the smoking is done in a legally designated area, the smoke still cannot infiltrate another area where smoking is prohibited," the lawmakers said. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

GOP

From Page 1

If they sweep the territories, they get about nine delegations in the Pacific, a huge amount overall.

Time magazine, however, reported in October that this rule—the "Rule of 40"—is "almost certain to be amended in the week leading up to the GOP convention, depending on circumstances."

The magazine reports the change was made to prevent Rand Paul from getting on the floor.

For instance, *Time* said, Republicans could move the minimum number higher, in the case of a clear nominee, or lower, if there's a contested convention.

Nevertheless, Republican interests are expected to swarm the islands soon.

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, for one, sent campaign consultant Dennis Lennox to American Samoa in September, and blasted federal cabotage laws that they said prevented economic growth, the *Samoa News Reports.*

And now, Donald Trump—known for his controversial statements on immigration, women, and with a infamous hairdo to boot—has sent a representative to meet with the local GOP president and younger GOP members, party officials said this week.

Alan Cobb, Trump's strategic consultant, arrived on island yesterday, confirmed Jason Osborne yesterday, the executive director of the local GOP party. Cobb is scheduled to leave tomorrow.

Osborne also said there are talks to have a Cruz representative visit the CNMI.

Local GOP officials said this week that every Republican candidate—with the exception of Ohio governor John Kasich—has paid the $7,500 fee the CNMI GOP set to put their name on the ballot for the presidential primary.

Both GOP and Democratic Party members in all five territories can vote in local caucuses or conventions to select that party's nominee for the presidential election.

The dues will help pay trips to the Republican National Convention, GOP officials said.

The GOP is planning to send nine delegates from the CNMI.

Agenda

It's unclear right now what most of these presidential hopeful plan for the CNMI should they be nominated and elected president.

Trump, for one, has come out with a hardline stance on immigration, reportedly asserting that he would deport the reported 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

The CNMI's unique contract worker program—reported to allow about 11,000 foreign nationals to live and work in the CNMI—is seen as the lifeline of the local economy here. However, federal law mandates an end to the program in 2019, much to the worry of business and government leaders.

Ted Cruz, the *Samoa News Reports,* wants to listen to what the territories have to say.

"American Samoa matters," Lennox told *Samoa News*. "For far too long American Samoa has been treated like it's this long forgotten stepchild or the despised bastard of Washington. And this needs to end."

Osborne, who is also a senior strategist for Republican candidate Dr. Ben Carson, told *Saipan Tribune* that Carson has a planned agenda for Commonwealth issues.

These issues include the CW program, the Jones Act, the regional military buildup, and plans for territories to have a representative in the White House consulting Carson, if elected.

Carson plans to create a Territory and Commonwealth Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

He also plans to appoint a special assistant to the President responsible for day-to-day interaction with the territories and commonwealths.

Osborne said these officials would advise Carson of what he can do, either through his administration, or by putting together a package for legislation in Congress, to address issues like Obamacare, which does not apply to the CNMI, or how territories can serve U.S. flagged vessels while the CNMI cannot.

PIPELINE

From Page 1

way that would prevent Gilbane Federal from completing the pipeline.

Gilbane Federal is a California-based construction company appointed by the U.S. District Court for the NMI to complete some stalled CUC projects, including the pipeline.

In CUC's reply to the U.S. government's response to CUC's request for a status conference, Sirok said $4 million was already spent on the pipeline project prior to Gilbane Federal's appointment.

The lawyer said that Gilbane Federal estimated $8.8 million to $8.9 million to build the pipeline and at least another $1 million for decommissioning, commissioning, smart pigging, and operational training. Sirok said this brings the project's total costs to over $14 million.

"There will likely be change orders [that will] increase these costs during the construction and post-construction periods," he said.

Sirok said it will be CUC and not the United States or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that will not be in charge of repairing and maintaining the pipeline after Gilbane Federal leaves.

He said the money being spent to build the pipeline does not come from EPA but from the CNMI, through its insular grants, and from CUC's ratepayers.

As the eventual owner of the pipeline, CUC has the responsibility to express its concerns about how the pipeline is being constructed, he said.

"This includes a discussion about the increasing costs of the construction as compared to other available alternatives which are substantially less expensive but provide the same result," he said.

By substantial, Sirok said, CUC means millions of dollars in savings.

Simply put, Sirok said, the U.S. government has taken CUC's motion "out of context and has twisted its content, and the statements made, in an attempt to embarrass and shame CUC into silence" before the court.

The United States, he noted, even uses the response to criticize CUC for repairing leaks in the existing pipeline when they occur, as if CUC should do nothing once a leak is detected.

Sirok said a "new" pipeline is not needed to eliminate spills. He said the existing pipeline can be repaired now, prior to leakage, by replacing defective sections with new pipe, at a much less cost than building a "new" one at Gilbane Federal's high cost estimate.

CUC wants the court to set a status conference to discuss Gilbane Federal's performance on the project. The utilities agency urged the court to consider allowing CUC to just repair and replace the defective sections of the existing pipeline.

In the U.S. government's recent response to the motion, the U.S. Department of Justice says CUC is just throwing up roadblocks to hinder the construction of the pipeline, blaming CUC's "ineffective management" for nearly five years that caused the costs of the project to escalate.

The oil pipeline project is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel fuel from the Mobil oil facility to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base. EPA had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to the adjacent ocean.

H-VISA

From Page 1

Both moves would meet the provisions of the Consolidated National Resources Act, which mandates an end to the contract worker program in 2019 and could potentially shepherd hundreds—even thousands—of foreign nationals to immediately qualify for CNMI prevailing wages under the H-visa system and lift them above U.S. poverty levels.

The move to the H-visa class appears to have met some resistance, though, as it is seen as the more cost-prohibitive and restrictive route compared to the contract worker program.

Business investors have been seeking assistance in expediting the process for foreign workers under CW visas, even if these workers are eligible for H-visas, *Saipan Tribune* learned. For one, an undisclosed construction firm seeking to do business in the CNMI has a pending application for some 500 contract workers who could readily be classified under the H-visa class, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

The contract worker program, as it is now, does not adequately incentivize a full-force transition pursuant to mandates under federal law. It is also believed to lack teeth to enforce these rules, as USCIS reportedly allows CW visas for H-visa eligible workers.

In the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's monthly newsletter on Wednesday, president Alex Sablan suggested that USCIS and the CNMI Labor Department collaborate and insist that CW-1 law is complied with as is required in the CNRA.

"The time has come for all positions under an H-visa to be filtered out of CW-1 and employees either apply for H-visas or hire a U.S. citizen as required under" law, Sablan said.

Sablan believes hundreds or maybe even thousands of foreign national workers would immediately qualify for CNMI prevailing wages under the H-visa system or—the preferred alternative—CNMI U.S. citizens that may be hired instead of foreign workers.

Either way, Sablan said, many professional and skilled labor jobs would exponentially elevate these people above the U.S. poverty level. He adds, though, that many jobs would be lost in this transition because "our economy is in a flux and many employers may not be able to absorb the costly and time consuming impact of this process."

"I believe the time has come," Sablan wrote, "regardless of whether we are able to successfully garner enough U.S. congressional support to provide an extension beyond 2019 of the CW-1 visa program, the CNMI under this system will need to ensure job opportunities are available for U.S. citizen workers and at prevailing wage that has been determined based on sound economic analysis of our current economy."

New projects need H-visas

Acting governor Ralph Torres told *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday that because the "H-1 visa is a specific project oriented…that's exactly what we need here" to "not exhaust our contract worker workforce."

"Those new projects—which are mostly construction—we need those additional H-1 visas," he said. "We should have some sort of a different category for the new projects that we have. …Like the companies now, the only route now is to do CW. So that's the only thing that the companies are going to move forward on is the CW. We should have a different category for the new projects."

Bog down in permitting

The processing of CW permits has also met some delays.

"The USCIS immigration service is already now bogged down with thousands of new applications," Sablan said Wednesday in his remarks at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Sablan noted that, with the existing CW workforce plus the additional quota in play, only about 1,600 slots remain.

"Every single one of those permits is now in play and being fought for because at this stage we don't have the needed workforce," he said.

Many businesses have been calling the Chamber, USCIS, the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, and the Inos administration because "permitting is getting bogged down by all these new permits, and the fact that we don't have enough," Sablan added.

"We are into our seventh year of transition under the USCIS federal immigration system, and it is time for businesses to look at the idea of either transitioning their foreign national workforce into an H-visa system [if] those people qualify, or hiring…a qualified U.S. citizen worker in the CNMI," he said.

Tim Counts, Supervisory Public Affairs Officer of USCIS, explained in an email last week that "cases that involve large numbers of workers may require additional time to adjudicate, as each case needs to be considered on its own merits."

"In order to give full and fair consideration to the evidence submitted by an employer, additional review time is often necessary," Counts told *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNRA, the law that extended federal immigration laws into the Commonwealth, created a separate CW visa class for foreign workers in the CNMI that was supposed to last only until 2014, while transitioning to the H visa class provided in federal immigration law. However, Congress decided last year to extend the CW program by five more years—up to 2019—but this time with no further possibility of extending the temporary CW program. By 2019, all foreign workers in the CNMI should already be under the H visa class.

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Granddaughter of WWII veteran explores missed connections

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Betsy Weintraub, the granddaughter of World War II G-2 security and intelligence officer Sam Weintraub, recently moved to Saipan to learn more about the islands that her grandfather loved so much that he kept returning decades after the war.

During her time here, Betsy Weintraub hopes to locate some of the people who knew her grandfather, or at least some of their relatives.

Her grandfather, she said, made many return trips to the islands and eventually moved here in the 1970s.

Betsy Weintraub is planning a trip to Tinian to visit the places her grandfather loved and hopefully reconnect with the people who knew him in the 1980s.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
World War II G-2 security and intelligence officer Sam Weintraub, left, of the U.S. Army Air Corps is shown in this file photo with another intelligence officer.

Saipan Tribune asked whether she knew of any family names her grandfather may have mentioned and she said, "I only know nicknames but I'm in the process of acquiring his war journal and his personnel files through the Freedom of Information Act. My father actually tried to retrieve this information back in the '70s but that was a different time and it was harder to gain information."

She says she hopes to gain more insight and direction about her grandfather's time on the islands since his passing in 1993.

Newspaper articles from the 1940s detailed Sam Weintraub's reconnaissance work in the area in 1945 and his responsibilities in pioneering psychological warfare. In a *Mid-South* article from Aug. 14, 1983, Sam Weintraub was recognized for coaxing 16 Japanese prisoners armed with grenades from island caves.

These flimsy pieces of newspaper cuttings and sepia-toned photos of her grandfather inspired her to find out more about the man who brought peace during a war of inhumane brutality.

"These are just the early stages," she said, as she goes forward documenting and exploring her grandfather's experiences.

Weintraub was in the U.S. Army Air Corps, rising from private to temporary major, a status given to officers who attain their rank during war, bringing his specialty with army intelligence and pioneering the psychological warfare tactics to the table.

According to the article, when he was finally in charge on Tinian, no more shots had been fired for several months and instead, psychological tactics of convincing the Japanese that surrendering was not so dishonorable saved many lives using peaceful means.

"I remember him well and all his talks about Tinian. It really was like a part of him, which is why I came here," Betsy Weintraub said.

'DPL advisory board active'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Members of the Department of Public Lands board met informally with acting DPL secretary Patricia Rasa yesterday to, among other issues, ask her to follow up on a governor appointee to be "fully constituted," said William Torres, who represents the Northern Islands on the board.

The other board members are David Evangelista Jr. from Tinian, Henry Hofschneider from Saipan, and Antonio Quitugua from Rota. They are appointed by municipal mayors.

There has been a clamor from House lawmakers for the need for a DPL advisory board, to among other things, push a slow-going homestead program forward.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that board members were meeting with Rep. Joseph Leepan Guerrero, who has been outspoken against DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio.

Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* separately that he would ask the House Natural Resources Committee chairman to call on the advisory board members to attend a public hearing on DPL set for this Monday.

That hearing is for House Bill 19-82, which would "abolish the Department of Public Lands and establish in its place the Marianas Lands Corp. with a board of trustees."

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LOCATIONS - Saipan & Rota

Manibusan warns vs shifting solid waste spending powers to mayors

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan warned yesterday against a Senate bill to give Rota and Tinian mayors control over solid waste funds for their home islands, noting that the funds are under the constitutional control of the CNMI Finance Department and transferring expenditure authority could risk federal grants loss or fines.

Senate Bill 19-60, if enacted, would essentially allow the mayors of Tinian and Rota to serve as the expenditure authority for the Solid Waste Management Revolving Fund programs on their islands. The bill is currently under review by the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations.

In a letter yesterday to committee chair Rep. Glenn Maratita, Manibusan notes two concerns over the authority over the funds, and the expertise needed to manage these solid waste programs.

Manibusan notes that if the Senate bill is enacted into law, these funds would remain "Commonwealth and public funds which are subject to the constitutional authority of the Secretary of Finance" to control and regulate the expenditure of public funds.

Further, Manibusan is concerned over the "extensive federal governance over solid waste management."

The U.S. Code on waste disposal regulations is "114 pages long in two-column layout," he said.

And the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's compliance manual on solid waste management runs another 242 pages, he added.

Noncompliance with these regulations, Manibusan said, can result in the loss of federal grants or in penalties—"not to mention the potential for environmental degradation."

"While the mayors of Tinian and Rota may be knowledgeable about their islands' solid waste needs, it is unlikely that they will be able to familiarize themselves with federal solid waste management rules unless they undertake extensive training or hire additional employees," Manibusan said. "Without such expertise, a misdirected expenditure could cost the Commonwealth a significant sum of money."

Manibusan concludes with this recommendation: a cost-benefit analysis of the bill and whether it would "frustrate the ability of the Department of Public Works and the Bureau of Environment Quality" to do their jobs in in complying with federal solid waste management law.

Another NMSA Instant Scratchies BIG WINNER!!! Congratulations to Mr. Ahammed who won $1000 cash playing NMSA Instant Scratchies at his local store TOHA Supermarket. It was a great Thanksgiving surprise when he scratched multiple prizes and the huge $1000 JACKPOT! Mr. Ahammed is a local businessman and was playing for fun in the early evening when he found his luck. NMSA who conduct the lottery advise that there are many more $1000 tickets to be won and you could be the next big winner. Good Luck everyone!

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Over 100 celebrate Japanese emperor's birthday

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Japan Consulate led by Consul Hitoshi Kikuchi held a reception Wednesday at the Grandvrio Resort Fiesta Hall in honor of Emperor Akihito, who will turn 82 years old on Dec. 23.

The event, which symbolizes the long-time relationship between the Japanese people and the CNMI, also paid tribute to the last time Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Saipan in June 2005 in remembrance of the lives lost during World War II and prayers for world peace.

A spokesperson for the Japan consulate stated that the emperor is hard at work in the last few years reaching out to disaster-stricken areas of Japan.

Severable agencies and government officials attended Wednesday's event, including acting governor Ralph DLG Torres and Senate President Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota).

The event served three different kinds of *sakes*, which, according to the consulate, is an intangible cultural property of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO.

"In parallel with the growing worldwide popularity of the Japanese culture, the foreign tourists to Japan will be approaching an unprecedented level of 20 million by the end of the year. In this respect, I would like to encourage more local people to visit Japan. Although it seems to me that the overall posture of Japan on this island has been somewhat weakened, I believe that the mutual affinity between the people of Saipan and Japan will continue to remain strong and we can further develop our friendship over years to come," Kikuchi said.

Dec. 23 is considered a national holiday, with the entire Japanese people celebrating the reign of the emperor. Japanese mythology states that emperors are the descendants of the sun goddess, Amaterasu Omikami, and that the first emperor, Jimmu, ascended the throne and began his reign in 660 BC. Emperor Akihito is thought to be a direct descendant of Emperor Jimmu and the 125th emperor to succeed to the throne. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko have two sons, Crown Prince Naruhito and Prince Akishino and one daughter, Princess Sayako.

Japanese Consul Hitoshi Kikuchi, right, and acting governor Ralph DLG Torres share a light moment during the reception Wednesday at the Grandvrio Resort Fiesta Hall in honor of Emperor Akihito, who will turn 82 years old on Dec. 23.

DAISY DEMAPAN

Tinian cops undergo seminar on proper search and seizure

On Friday, Nov. 27, 2015, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho conducted a presentation on search and seizure for Tinian police officers.

With the "War on Drugs" initiative led by Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, the presentation was requested by Department of Public Safety Tinian resident director Juan Santos to ensure compliance with proper procedure. The presentation was conducted at the Tinian Court House with 100-percent attendance by Tinian DPS police officers. This presentation is a critical component to continued training for law enforcement officers with the mission of protecting life, safety, and property on the island of Tinian.

The people of Tinian extend their appreciation to Camacho for providing the presentation and for the partnership in the "War on Drugs" for the municipality. ***(TMO)***

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Multi-village power and water service outages

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in two of Saipan's southern villages will experience a temporary service interruption as part of an ongoing federally funded waterline improvement project.

On Monday, Dec. 7, CUC will temporarily interrupt water service to customers along Isa Drive and Dandan Road between Chalan Tun Herman Pan and Sailing Drive at 10am to allow CUC's contractor, RNV Construction, to install a new lateral line for customers in the area.

CUC will limit the area affected by the six-hour outage to customers along Isa Drive between Chalan Tun Herman Pan (Airport Road) and the San Vicente intersection and along Dandan Road to Sailing Drive (just north of Dandan Middle School).

This project is in preparation for the waterline upgrade in the area that will improve system pressure and create a more reliable water system as part of the San Vicente Service Area Extension Project, funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

On Friday, Dec. 4, CUC will conduct a temporary power service interruption along Feeder 7. At 1pm, CUC line crews will temporarily interrupt power service to Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi to replace three deteriorated power poles and hardware.

As a result of the temporary power service interruption, water service will be affected for CUC customers in Saipan's northern villages from Marpi to Tanapag. Work on the repairs is expected to take up to four hours to complete, at which time power will be restored to the area. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). ***(CUC)***

Judge warns ex-cop not try her patience

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former police officer Florencio Q. Richards yesterday denied "at this time" the allegations that he used methamphetamine or "ice" again and committed other violations while on supervised release.

Michael Dotts, counsel for Richards, said at this time they are denying the allegations and asking for a postponement of the preliminary hearing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Richards' request and set the preliminary hearing for Dec. 8 at 10:30am.

Manglona told Richards that the U.S government would present evidence at the preliminary hearing that would back the allegations.

Manglona also warned Richards that if he tests positive for drug use again, it would be enough for her to issue a warrant to bring him into custody until the revocation hearing.

Manglona said she allows Richards to maintain free pending the hearing because she wants him to succeed and not to fail.

"But do not try my patience," Manglona told the former police officer.

Richards appeared in court yesterday after being summoned to appear following U.S. Probation Officer Gregory Arriola's report that Richards has not been complying with the conditions of his supervised release.

According to Arriola in the Nov. 13 report, Richards tested positive for "ice" use and he admitted using the illegal drug on Oct. 11 and 21, 2015.

Arriola said Richards also failed to submit to a drug test on Oct. 11, 2015, and failed to report to the U.S. Probation Office for drug testing on Oct. 23, 2015.

Arriola said Wednesday that the treatment vendor reported on Nov. 27, 2015, that Richards submitted a diluted urine sample while undergoing random drug testing.

Richards denied altering his urine sample and denied using illegal drugs.

Arriola said the sample was sent to the laboratory for further testing and the results are pending.

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MCS Theatre Club ready for 'White Christmas' musical

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cathryn Javier, left, who plays Judy Haynes, and Markel Toves, second from left, who plays Phil Davis, rehearse the song *Winter Wonderland* with members of the Guam Territorial Band.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vince Campo leads the Guam Territorial Band while also playing the alto saxophone.

The final touches are being added to the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club musical production of *White Christmas*, especially now that members of the Guam Territorial Band are on island rehearsing with cast and crew members.

"Putting on a play is hard enough, but putting on a musical is even harder," said school president and club adviser Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "On top of the normal challenges like memorizing lines, mastering stage directions, and ensuring all the sets and props and costumes are ready, you have to worry about the singing, the dancing, and the band itself."

Despite these challenges, Deleon Guerrero is looking forward to the performances. As he puts it, "Fortunately, we have very talented students backed up by a phenomenal band like the Guam Territorial Band, so things are going extremely well. This is going to be a fantastic show!"

GTB director and alto saxophonist Vince Campo shares Deleon Guerrero's enthusiasm. "I am very excited to see the end product between our band and the singers. It's been really fun working with them. It's been nice to see such dedication from these students, which is something rare to see in kids these days."

White Christmas stars four Theatre Club veterans who have acted in several other productions. Lance Deleon Guerrero plays Bob Wallace and Markel Toves plays Phil Davis, two entertainers and drama teachers who struggle to save a school and its drama program by staging a big musical. They enlist the help of two other entertainers, sisters Betty and Judy Haynes, played by Brianna Hunter and Cathryn Javier, respectively.

For Javier, this is her first time landing a lead role. "At first it was really challenging, because I was scared I couldn't do it, but now, I'm excited because we've put a lot of work into it. It's going to be great!"

For his part, Lance Deleon Guerrero is still nervous, despite numerous lead roles he has played in the past. "I am so dang nervous. The band is great, and rehearsing with them tells me that this is bigger than I thought. I am very excited, to sing and dance and see this whole production come together."

White Christmas will be performed today and tomorrow at Saipan World Resort. Doors open at 6:30pm and tickets are $25 for premium, front-row seats, $10 for preferred seats closer to the stage, and $5 for general admission seats. Tickets can be purchased at the school's Business Office or at the door. However, due to limited seating, advanced purchase of tickets is recommended. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com.

The production is made possible with the generous support of the CNMI Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, Hertz Rent-a-Car and Triple J Enterprises, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort, and Royal Travel. ***(MCS)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Territorial Band keyboardist Jan Rudolph, right, and drummer Domanique Smith, left, rehearse with lead cast members of *White Christmas*.

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		12/01/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/02/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/03/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/04/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/05/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
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12/13/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/14/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/15/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/16/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/17/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/18/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/19/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
12/20/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/21/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/22/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/23/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/24/2015 Christmas Brunch: $25 Dinner Buffet: $30	12/25/2015 Christmas Brunch: $25 Dinner Buffet: $30	12/26/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
12/27/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/28/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/29/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/30/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/31/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	1/01/2016 New Year Brunch: $25 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	1/02/2016 New Year Brunch: $25 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)

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Busy as bees exploring Saipan

Photo credit: www.mafendwo.com

Ma Feng Wo Bee Leaders Club, a Chinese travel SNS website with 80 million users, were as busy as bees during their familiarization tour of Saipan on Nov. 19-25, 2015.

Fifteen users visited the island to discover "what's all the buzz" about this resort destination and generate content for the website. Ma Feng Wo targets FITs (free independent travelers) and has had over 60 million downloads of its travel guidebooks and other information.

"The members of the Bee Leaders Club have a lot of travel experience, and they are good at photography and writing about their travel feelings. They choose video coverage, because as they say, a 'good picture is better than thousands of words, but a good video is better than the picture,'" said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "They shoot videos of all kinds of activities to immerse people in their travel experience."

The MVA worked with Century Tours to facilitate the Ma Feng Wo tour and assisted the group with film permitting for their visit. Activities included in their itinerary were a tour of Marpi and Managaha, paddle boarding, UTV jungle tour, star gazing, snorkeling, skydiving, a sunset dinner cruise, and Garapan Street Market. The Northern Marianas will join 200 other countries and regions featured on their site. ***(MVA)***

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Free health screening on Sunday

In an effort to increase awareness of maintaining good health and disease prevention, the US Pinoys for Good Governance and National Federation of Filipino American Associations-Marianas Chapter (CNMI and Guam), in collaboration with El Shaddai Saipan Chapter, will be holding a free three-hour health screening on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, from 8am to 11am, at San Antonio Parish Social Hall, San Antonio, Saipan.

Registration starts at 7:30am and will be continuing until 10am.

People who would like to avail of the blood sugar tests are advised to fast—to refrain from eating and drinking liquids preferably 12 hours or at least two hours prior to the actual testing.

Several key vital metrics include blood pressure, blood sugar, weight, height, body mass index, and vision. Knowing where your health stands helps you start realistic personal health goals for the rest of this year and for 2016.

"Free health screening events help members of our community take charge of their health. Further, providing such free services not only signifies volunteerism but is also a gift to our community during this Christmas season," said Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of USPGG and NaFFAA Marianas Chapter for CNMI and Guam.

Information on disease prevention such as hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, stroke, heart attack, among others, will be distributed at the health screening site.

The USP4GG Marianas chapter is committed to provide free health screening services to all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, citizenship, and religion. ***(PR)***

Office closures for DNP on Monday

The Disability Network Partners will be having Professional Development on Monday, Dec. 7, 2015. The following offices will be closed for this training opportunity on EEOC and Ethics: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; Council on Developmental Disabilities; University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities out of the Northern Marianas College; CNMI Respite Care Program; and Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. All offices above will go back to regular working hours on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015. The DNP would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone happy holidays in our CNMI! ***(DNP)***

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.

Ask if your baby passed the test. If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.

Nominations open for Employer Support Freedom Award

» National Guard, Reserve members urged to nominate your civilian employer for nation's top honor

WASHINGTON—Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense office, is now accepting nominations for the 2016 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the nation's highest honor presented to civilian employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR encourages Guardsmen, Reservists, or family members acting on their behalf, to submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil by Dec. 31, 2015. No submissions will be accepted after that date.

Guard and Reserve members comprise nearly one-half of our nation's military force. They provide essential services to maintain national security and conduct humanitarian efforts at home and abroad. The unwavering commitment of their employers helps keep our military prepared and our nation protected.

"Every day, employers large and small work to ease the burden on those who serve by providing workplace flexibility, career opportunities and dedicated support," said Paul Mock, ESGR national chair. "The Freedom Award is one way we can thank the employers that stand behind our Guardsmen, Reservists and their families."

The Freedom Award ceremony is held in Washington, D.C., for up to 15 deserving employers each year in August. This award recognizes employers who go above and beyond in supporting members of the Guard and Reserve—from continuing benefits and healthcare during deployments, to helping with home maintenance and sponsoring veteran hiring initiatives. Service members can thank employers for their exemplary support by submitting a Freedom Award nomination today.

ESGR is a Department of Defense office that develops and promotes supportive work environments for service members in the Reserve Components through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities. On behalf of the Secretary of Defense, ESGR executes the annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award program. The Freedom Award has been presented to 220 employers

since it began in 1996.

The Freedom Award is the highest award given by the U.S. government to employers for exceptional support of their employees serving in the National Guard or Reserve. Nominees represent small (less than 500 employees), large (more than 500 employees), and public employers.

Each year, all states and four territories, as well as all branches of the Service (to include the Coast Guard Reserve), are represented in the nomination process.

The award began in 1996, when then-Secretary of Defense William Perry authorized it and presented it to Schneider National, a Green Bay, Wisconsin, trucking company. In the years since, 220 employers have received the Freedom Award. Previous honorees include CVS Health, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Ford Motor Company, the State of Hawaii, the Boise Fire Department, the Town of Hingham (Massachusetts), St. Jude Children's Hospital and the family-owned farm Augustine & Sons in Rose Hill, Iowa.

In previous years, recipients met with the President of the United States and are provided a tour of the White House and Pentagon. The President signs a proclamation declaring the last full week of August (or whichever week coincides with the Freedom Award ceremony) as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.

Employers are nominated by National Guard and Reserve Service member employees. Last year, 2,960 nominations were submitted online at www.FreedomAward.mil.

The State Committee Freedom Award Selection Board, led by the volunteer ESGR state chair and chair-appointed volunteers, review all nominations and verify accuracy of the information. The board then decides who will represent their state as a semifinalist.

A total of 150 employers were named semifinalists this year. Thirty finalists are announced in approximately April/May. No more than 15 recipients are approved by the Secretary of Defense around June. The Secretary of Defense presents the 15 awards to recipients at the Pentagon in a ceremony, which is streamed live to an audience of millions. ***(ESGR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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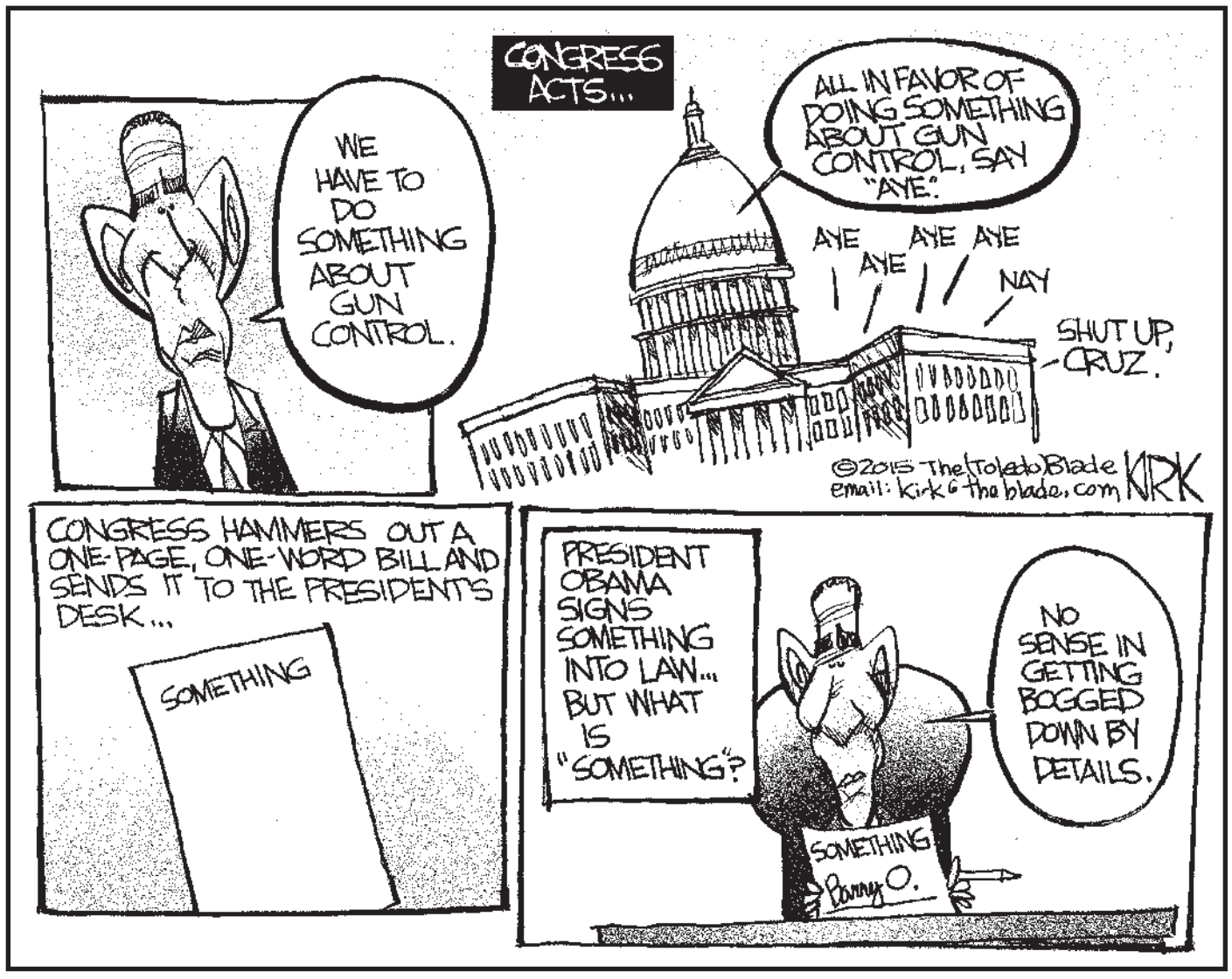
CONGRESS ACTS...
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT GUN CONTROL.
ALL IN FAVOR OF DOING SOMETHING ABOUT GUN CONTROL, SAY "AYE."
AYE AYE AYE AYE
NAY
SHUT UP, CRUZ.
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CONGRESS HAMMERS OUT A ONE-PAGE, ONE-WORD BILL AND SENDS IT TO THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...
SOMETHING
PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS SOMETHING INTO LAW... BUT WHAT IS "SOMETHING"?
NO SENSE IN GETTING BOGGED DOWN BY DETAILS.
SOMETHING
Barry O.

Empty promises in Paris?

By JOHN BOLTON and JOHN YOO
Los Angeles Times

John Bolton was U.S. ambassador to the U.N. during the George W. Bush administration. John Yoo is a professor of law at the University of California, Berkeley and served in the Bush Justice Department. They are scholars at the American Enterprise Institute and wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

As more than 190 nations continue to meet this week to negotiate an agreement to limit greenhouse gases, President Barack Obama finds himself in a terrible bind.

On one side is international pressure to vest any climate deal with what international law considers to be binding legal force. On the other is the political difficulty, even the impossibility, of approving a climate treaty under our Constitution because of the need for approval by two-thirds of the Senate.

To realize the purported benefits of limiting greenhouse gases, nations must undergo the economic pain of reducing carbon-based fuels. Because all nations benefit from any reduction, individual countries have an incentive to keep polluting and just free-ride on others' efforts. Nations want a reliable commitment in order to forestall cheating. In November, French President Francois Hollande declared that if a Paris agreement "is not legally binding, there is no agreement." (Of course, in international law, there is no way to compel compliance, judicially or otherwise, which is what makes such law an amorphous concept.)

The Obama administration has made contradictory statements about whether a Paris agreement will be binding. Treaties are the most formal international pacts the U.S. makes. But last month, Secretary of State John F. Kerry said that any deal was "definitively not going to be a treaty." State Department officials backtracked the next day: "The U.S. is pressing for an agreement that contains both legally binding and non-legally binding provisions." In the summer, officials said they would negotiate a "politically binding deal."

The Constitution is responsible for sowing some of this confusion in the Obama ranks. Article II states that the president "shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur." Administration officials surely realize that any climate-change treaty would be dead on arrival in the Senate, which recently rejected elements of a new Obama plan to cut power plant emissions.

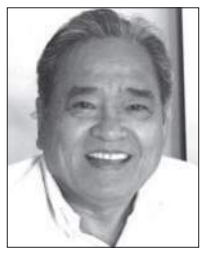
Obama may try to thread the needle with an executive agreement, which does not involve Senate consent. The U.S. has made roughly 1,100 treaties in its history, but it has made about 18,500 executive agreements—17,300 of them since 1939. While attractive to all presidents, executive agreements rest uneasily under the Constitution, which authorizes treaties only. Nevertheless, in U.S. v. Belmont, the Supreme Court blessed President Franklin Roosevelt's executive agreement to recognize the Soviet Union. "An international compact, as this was, is not always a treaty which requires the participation of the Senate," wrote Justice George Sutherland, although he did not explain the difference.

Executive agreements soared after World War II, but historical practice alone cannot grant the president an unfettered power that the Constitution does not confer. The Constitution is best understood to require treaties for agreements that significantly constrain the nation's sovereignty, while allowing the president to make solo deals that depend only on the exercise of his own powers. There is no bright line. But the constitutional text and long experience support the use of treaties for political and military alliances, arms control agreements and the waging of war.

See EMPTY on Page 15

Smart phones

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

They are ubiquitous. Tourists walk and talk on the sidewalk with them; couples on a date each finger a smartphone, a whole day addiction.

The cellular smart phone is able to function like a computer, typically with an operating system that can run general-purpose applications with a relatively discernable screen. It combines all kinds of digitized functions—telephone, iChat, calendar, alarm clock, including the indispensible email. "Smartphone" has since become a dictionary word as well.

Accounts on the widespread use of the gizmo in all regions are similar. Smartphones are popularly used as if G.I. Joe got the rest of the world chewing gum again.

I took a group to Mt. Tapuchao on an overcast afternoon that softly looked on all sides of the island like the legendary Bali Hai of the Pacific on a misty morn, and when I looked at my wards to see if they were mesmerized by the ambience as I was, all three were on their smartphones. No one paid attention to the surrounding scenery!

One thing is for sure, the smartphone is not an item anticipated by sci-fi that projected life into the future, a bane for prophets and prognosticators. It is one of those gizmos where function just merged with fashion and fad, and the manufacturers and sellers laughed their way to the bank.

The smartphone is here to stay, its designs dominating jewelry and designers' display. I am still stuck with the laptop even as my iPad collects dust on my desktop. If the rest of the world converses in a smartphone, I lounge even in the Anthropocene era with dinosaurs!

It is now statistically confirmed, with a new word coined to fit the phenomenon called "phubbing," that feeling ignored by a loved one oblivious that ze has displaced attention toward a beloved with an obsession with the use of a device, a dildo of the imagination. Phubbing "snub" causes talk breakdowns and relationship breakups, interferes with smooth vibes.

As a wordsmith, I see the appropriateness of the "smart" phone as used by enamored folks. The phone itself is nothing but a glorified computer, captivating users. That we call the phone "smart" is appropriate to the degree that it is used by "dumb" folks who allow a phone to be "master" over itchy fingers incapable of letting it just be.

The practice of turning an object into an obsession is called idolatry. The smartphone was meant as a communication tool but the tool has taken over living. That is not unusual. It used to be money that was the object of obsession where human worth is measured by the size of the bank account. Much earlier, Iesu of Nazareth ascended the zenith of medieval supernatural architecture.

The "el" of *elohim* (later translated as "lord") is "is-ness", an affirmation of simply "the way life is" (YHWH). The Hebrew was clear of its tangible function to create and destroy. Muslims took the other end of the spectrum when the Hebrews slipped to idolize the Temple of Jerusalem and the City of David. They shifted the function to a role, declared "al lah" as the "no thing." discouraging the use of icons and images in piety. The prophetic role of the messenger to prophesy boom or gloom became the major focus.

The role is the new obsession as democratized horizontal structures long for the status symbol of royals.

There is an escapist quality to the obsession with icons as minds are transported to imagined zones; the smartphone allows conversation instantly with imagined others like in social media. The smartphone is even capable of transmitting instant images through iChat. Never mind the nature or quality of the immediate surroundings. Immediacy is in the phone and what it creates, not the broader world of awareness; immediacy is a province of titillated minds oblivious to place and time.

Some religious types descended on my apartment one weekend to assure me that there is life after death on authority of scriptures quoted in their tracts. The Scriptures became their icon, a source of authority. Karl Marx observed that religion becomes an opiate of the people. The smartphone gets our minds to locate life elsewhere other than our immediate surrounding, and around me, it has clearly become an opiate of the people.

A Chinese saying goes: *It is not our feet that move us along; it is our minds.* The mind is not just about "thinking." It moves from sensations to emotions, cognition to action, simple but helpful. There is a gray but much utilized area between preferences (emotions) and thoughts (cognition), referred to as "belief," a mirror of one's state of being littered with images rather than a db of knowledge.

The Japanese took their word for picture, *moji,* and attached "e" to make it electronic. The "emoji" face graces many emails; is the Oxford English Dictionary word of the year!

The complex smartphones manual makes me want to return to school but its ability to snap a picture can very well be its saving grace. We may not become literate, but we sure can reclaim visual skills.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The U-turn Flu

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

You're heard of the bird flu, the swine flu, and the Spanish flu. I think I've discovered a new strain in the wild: the U-turn Flu.

Sounds mighty serious, eh? But let's not get alarmed. I haven't seen any headlines that indicate that this year's flu season is particularly menacing.

But among kith and kin this U-turn flu is cutting a pretty wide swath.

Here's how the U-turn Flu operates: First, it just brushes by the victim. After a couple of days of feeling just a little bit lousy the victim easily bounces back and returns to a full holiday schedule of socializing, shopping, and traveling. The flu recedes from vision like tail lights growing dim as they move away.

All is well. Well, for a while, at least.

And then, like a demonically-possessed car in an old horror flick, the flu whips a U-turn. It heads directly for the victim. It hits the gas. The engine roars. After that: squish.

Someone we planned to see during a post-Thanksgiving trip wound up in the doggone hospital after the U-turn Flu swerved into pneumonia. Not that we made the trip: Be they slated as the visitors or the visited, just everyone on the roster came down with the U-turn Flu.

Of course, even when you're lying down that's no reason to take things lying down, so it's time for home remedies. I have no idea if any of them really work, but, then again, I have no idea if any of them don't work, either.

Chicken soup is probably the most well-known of the American remedies. It's so well-known, as a matter of fact, that I've always associated it with being sick, which probably dampened my enthusiasm for it as a normal food.

My grandfather, a doctor, often prescribed a shot of Scotch for many ailments, a treatment not unpopular with his patients. That was a long time ago, though, so I don't know if it would pass muster as an accepted practice given modern sensibilities.

My favorite home remedy is tea made from dried bitter melon. I heard about this from a Vietnamese pharmacist who regarded it as a marvel of the herbal realm, though he cautioned that it's not advisable to consume it if you have certain medical conditions. I never thought to find out if bitter melon grows on Saipan, but it is a tropical plant, so maybe it does. As for the bitter melon products I've seen as teas, I've seen them exported from Vietnam and from China.

One tropical plant that certainly grows on Saipan is the noni. The juice is quite popular as a health supplement, and there's been some commercial action on Saipan on that note.

An over-the-counter concoction that's popular in my circles is something called Airborne. It comes in tablets that fizz after they're plopped in water. Of the several ingredients, two are zinc and vitamin C, so the big idea is that they help shore up the immune system. Does it work? I don't know. Do I buy it? Sure. I can't see any harm in it and, well, fizzy stuff is cool. Yeah, I am easily amused.

Apparently, though, some people weren't amused by some of Airborne's marketing claims. A few years ago there was a legal kerfuffle and Airborne had to pay out some money. I never followed the affair, though.

Lots of people are buying lots of stuff, of course. If there's one common element in the world's retail shops it's the ubiquity of cold-and-flu remedies. The brands are so well-established that we can recognize them at a glance even if we've never bought them.

And then there are the products we can't recognize, let alone pronounce. The Korean potions are intriguing, sold in mysterious little bottles with very dignified-looking labels. Whenever I see them in a sari-sari store I forget to ask anyone what's in them, or what they're for. The only thing I can think about when I'm in a store is getting out of the store, so my attention span is nil. After that, though, I'll spend a half-hour wondering what was in the little brown bottle with the white label and the blue lettering. Maybe it's some ancient Asian remedy that would be a great, life-changing discovery.

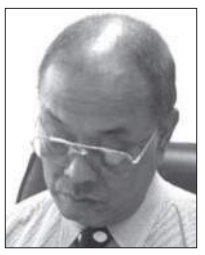
Well, I'll never know. Some things are just destined to be mysteries.

Which leads me back to this mysterious U-turn Flu. Keep an eye on that thing, that's what I say. If it brushes up against you it might be planning to make a more memorable appearance the next time around.

Random thoughts

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



As we debate planned military use of Pagan, Japanese Prime Minister Abe has decided to proceed with construction of Camp Schwab Marine base in northern Okinawa. He's decided to scrap the rule of law or the 80 percent people support of Okinawa's governor who shut down the project in recent past. The decision is likely to become a long legal battle.

It seems most Okinawans prefer the pacifist posture it has had since after WWII. This alone could open it up to terrorist attacks similar to the recent Paris carnage. It makes sense that central government leadership has opted that the country get proactively involved in her defense per a U.S.-Japan alliance. Question: Would this lessen the need for use of Pagan?

Corruption bewing

CUC's board of directors is normally clueless in its disposition of issues, mixing policy matters and constantly delusional and itching to engage in the micro-management of the utility agency.

But this happens when people appointed to do fiduciary duty on policy reviews are basically incompetent to use inference to buckle down to the task at hand. It turns into parochialism when matters of state are reduced to personal aggrandizement.

Recently, the utility's board of directors approved a policy removing the authority to approve customer promissory notes from the accounting division and granted it solely to CUC deputy managers on Tinian and Rota. This was allowed by CUC chair Adelina Roberto, because Tinian board member Eric San Nicolas has serious problems paying his past due accounts and faces disconnection.

Roberto conveniently overlooks the fact that policy matters must be made equally applicable to *all* ratepayers. This is how you achieve fairness and equilibrium. To remove it, catering to the whims of a board member, germinates corruption. It is no wonder people here have serious distrust of government. Why abolish "checks and balance"?

The anomalous action of the CUC board raises the query: Is there anybody in the administration who reviews the academic and professional qualifications of appointments to ensure the appointee is mature and factually capable of dealing with policy formulation? This is very humiliating!

No room for airheads on the CUC board. I mean I'm complaining as a ratepayer, in fact, clamoring that certain standards set for all clientele be made equally applicable to board members too. It's time to rid the board of corrupt people starting with Adelina Roberto and Eric San Nicolas! The rest should bow ASAP too.

Presidential exit

U.S. presidential history shows the number one man in the WH using the lightning rod to destroy the enemy so to ensure the safety of countrymen.

Furthermore, I can't fathom his mindset to bring in 10,000 Syrian refugees to the country in the wake of the Paris bombing by terrorists tied to ISIS. Obviously, 31 state governors whose jurisdiction would be adversely affected have soundly protested against sending refugees to their states. Obama's demonstrated nothing but passivity and still wants to "lead from behind." And he's at it again! Cowardice must be his Achilles heel, ignoring glaring facts of destruction of lives!

It's good the see the end of the Obama presidency fading quickly into the horizon basically a lame duck. His use of hound dog syndrome has done nothing but elicit loss of confidence in our country's disposition on ISIS and other foreign affairs concerns.

President Obama does something else unique: he seeks for the exit and he isn't sending flowers to Paris either. Though he's got his own perception of the quickly unfolding violence from ISIS it seems only too clear that his viewpoint is bred with ignorance.

Plenty in 1993

Recalled before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs a declaration made by the late former governor Lorenzo Guerrero that all future appropriations for grant funds for the NMI should cease.

The NMI was in its bubble years, loaded with tons of money from its combined apparel and tourism industries and other healthy sectors. But it was a fragile wealth poked and eventually sizzled and wished we had never derailed grant fund assistance.

Here we are today, fully bankrupt but holding steadfastly to unhealthy spending habits. In less than a year or two we should see our shadows doing the mea culpa before the break of dawn every morning.

Scourge in our community

It is very disturbing to know that more of our young people are into drugs like methamphetamine ("ice" or shabu). The highly addictive and fatal drug could simply destroy their lives. Entry leaves wide open a shift into higher level of heinous criminal activities.

Not sure that this is the path they should take. I've seen how this addictive drug has brought young people destined for better days sink into oblivion. I've seen how they have specialized in theft and know which parts of a car sell quicker than the other. They know exactly which one to dismantle quickly too.

As their newfound choice hardens, it opens up the pathway for larger theft and robbery in our community. This is bad for kids whose future is wrapped in criminal activities that lead all roads to DOC in Susupe. At some point even murder may factor into their scheme. Dangerous!

Hope the parents of these young minds find time to remap the course of their activities into something constructive. Don't be afraid to seek for help. Better now than never. I still have hope in their reverting to cleansing themselves so they regroup and pursue brighter undertakings. Shabu and other hard drugs would get you into trouble over the long haul!

I've seen death among young students who did well academically and were star athletes. Their only problem was the inability to know when to say, "Enough is enough." Sadly, their parents or relative are asked to visit the morgue to ID them for final disposition. It's a difficult experience for mom and dad, leaving them in a whirlwind if they should have done something more drastic.

EMPTY

From Page 14

The Constitution erects the supermajority hurdle in the path of treaties to ensure a broad consensus for highly important undertakings. A treaty demonstrates the fullest American political support, and it signals that Congress will follow through on appropriations or substantive laws needed to give effect to its terms.

Obama's recent Iran nuclear deal illustrates the line between treaties and executive agreements. While we opposed the nuclear deal's substance, we conceded its form as an executive agreement. The Iran deal did not limit American sovereignty, it did not take attacks off the table, and it required no new legislation. In our view, it fell within the president's power and will probably last only as long as his time in office. (A president has the unilateral power to abrogate executive agreements, and even treaties, as George W. Bush did in 2002 by withdrawing from the Antiballistic Missile Treaty).

When it comes to a climate deal in Paris, an executive agreement cannot meet the "legally binding" demands of European leaders because the president alone cannot keep the promises that are under discussion. For example, the Paris negotiators want firm emissions-control agreements. But only Congress can set specific national limits on greenhouse gas emissions under its authority to regulate interstate commerce. Helping developing nations absorb the costs of energy limits, as envisioned by a proposed $10 billion Green Climate Fund, would also require legislative approval: Congress alone controls the power of the purse and any U.S. contributions to the fund.

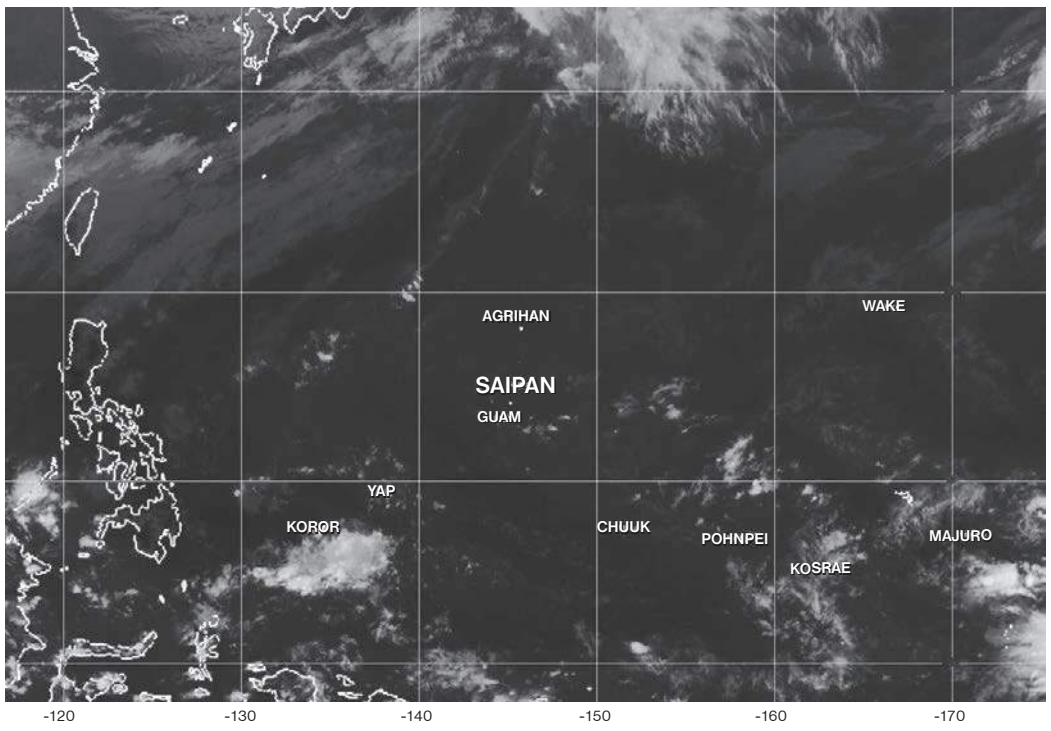
Obama can achieve his climate change legacy only through delicate negotiations with Congress. His poor relations with the House and Senate, especially on foreign policy, appear to render success unlikely. Obama may rely on his unilateral authority to join a world climate pact, but without Congress his most important promises will be empty ones whose fate will be left to his successor.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs northwestward from south of Kwajalein near 4N167E to north of Pohnpei near 9N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this feature are seen near Pohnpei and Kosrae within 200 miles of a line from 7N161E to 1N166E. Isolated thunderstorms are found north of Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 9N156E to 12N160E. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from a weak circulation centered south of Yap near 2N139E through another circulation centered near Tarawa atoll near 3N173E to beyond 180 at 3N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located south of Koror and Yap within 100 miles of a line from 4N130E to 6N139E. Patches of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Majuro, Butaritari and Tarawa atolls east of a line from 10N178E to 5N170E to EQ175E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲74	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲41	▼23
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼67
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Sunny	▲53	▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼50
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲88	▼58
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼71
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼40
Osaka	Windy	▲50	▼45
Paris	Showers	▲54	▼41
Pusan	Windy	▲51	▼37
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼45
Salem	Rain	▲54	▼42
San Francisco	Rain	▲60	▼49
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼34
Tokyo	Windy	▲55	▼43
Washington, DC	Windy	▲50	▼35

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
2:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:23 AM	12:53 PM
Saturday	1:10 AM	1:31 PM
Sunday	1:56 AM	2:09 PM
Monday	2:43 AM	2:48 PM
Tuesday	3:31 AM	3:28 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

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6th Prize: IPad Mini ED VILLAGOMEZ

4th Prize: 50" LED TV
PETER K. FENG

5th Prize: 50" LED TV & Ipad Air
AMENA MAHMUD

CONSOLATION PRIZE:

1. RUTH PERITO
2. EMY
3. REMY ADA
4. REMEDIOS MACAYAN
5. JORDAN MENDIOLA
6. MARGARET MUNA
7. AUDREY DUTRO
8. PETER MARATITA
9. ARNOLD DOMINGO
10. KWAK YOUNG SUK
11. DOLL MANIBUSAN
12. JESUS TAISAGUE
13. HYUN TEY SEO
14. MARIA T SALINAS
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16. FEODOR RAPADAS
17. MELINDA S. NAPUTI
18. SOLEDAD S. ITO
19. JOSEPHINE Y. YOUNG
20. JULIE P. DEL ROSARIO
21. JENNIFER NARIO
22. COURTNEY AGULTO
23. RHONDA GROSS
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25. GEMMA CHONG
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27. PEGGY HONG
28. GLENDA SAN GABRIEL
29. TESS BIANUEVA
30. GLENNIS Y. GAMBOA

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Volunteers sought for Saturday debris cleanup

The Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, or CARE, will continue with its volunteer storm debris sorting and staging project this Saturday, Dec. 5. This weekend the project will focus on Kagman, from 8:30am to 12pm.

Volunteers are needed to assist in sorting storm debris from Typhoon Soudelor in preparation for its removal. Once debris is sorted by the volunteers, debris will be removed and disposed of by the CNMI Department of Public Works and the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Interested volunteers are asked to meet at Kagman High School at 8:30am. There they will be assigned to a team leader who will direct their cleanup efforts.

CARE is partnering with United 4 Saipan for this cleanup event. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants and closed-toe walking shoes. Water will be provided. For more information, go to www.cnmicare.com. ***(CARE)***

Man admits to 'ice' use, violating release conditions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal probationer Ryan Taitano Babauta yesterday admitted to allegations that he used methamphetamine or "ice" and violated other conditions of his supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set Babauta's sentencing for Dec. 29, 2015 at 9am. He will remain in jail until then. He is represented by attorney Michael Dotts.

Babauta's parents, wife, and two young children, and some relatives attended yesterday's hearing.

"You are very fortunate to have your family come to court. I hope you appreciate that," the judge told Babauta.

Manglona noted that this is the third petition for revocation of Babauta's supervised release.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing stated that according to the U.S. Probation Office, Babauta admitted using "ice" twice this year, thrice failed to report to the U.S. Probation Office, failed to report to counseling sessions four times, and failed to report for random tests thrice.

The court revoked Babauta's probation at least twice in the past for using "ice" and violating other probation conditions.

In 1999, the court slapped Babauta with a 180-month prison sentence and five years of supervised release for hostage taking and felon in possession of a firearm.

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NMC'S CASH FOR COLLEGE ON TINIAN ON SATURDAY

Free financial aid assistance, notary, copy services at event

Northern Marianas College is reminding students and members of the community about the free "Cash for College" workshop that will be held tomorrow, Dec. 5, 2015. The event aims to assist students and their parents maximize scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education.

The free workshop will be held at the NMC Tinian Campus. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 3pm.

At the workshop, participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, CNMI Scholarship, and the Tinian Municipal Scholarship. Workshop participants can also have their financial aid documents notarized and photocopied, all without any charges or fees.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records and the Financial Aid Office will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC admission application process and questions regarding financial aid.

In addition, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the upcoming spring 2016 semester. This waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid passport, birth certificate, or green card), three official transcripts, signed 2014 1040 tax form (2014 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes), and/or proof of CNMI residency for 2014 and 2015 (for example, CNMI 1040 tax form, employment verification from your employer, official transcripts, voters certification, etc.).

For additional information, contact Maria Aguon at 433-0649 or email maria.aguon@marianas.edu, or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged Jeffery's Beach and Old Man by the Sea and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday, Phil! May you have many more birthdays to come. Love, from Jamie, Evana, and Jewel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 9th birthday to Aiyana Jade! Wishing you the sweetest of blessings on your special day. Lots of love from Mom, Dad, Tristan, Melody, Ansa' and Grandma.

Last day of the temporary issuance will be December 31, 2015.

WIC Temporary Issuance of Milk During Typhoon Soudelor Recovery

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Nation

14 dead, more than a dozen wounded in California shooting

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—At least two heavily armed attackers opened fire on a banquet at a social services center for the disabled Wednesday, killing 14 people and seriously wounding more than a dozen others in a precision assault that looked "as if they were on a mission," authorities said.

Hours later, police hunting for the killers riddled a black SUV with gunfire in a shootout two miles from the late-morning carnage, and a man and woman with assault rifles, handguns and "assault-style clothing" were killed, San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan said.

AP
A victim is wheeled away on a stretcher following a shooting that killed multiple people at a social services facility, Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015, in San Bernardino, Calif.

A third person who was spotted running near the gunbattle was detained, but Burguan said it was unclear if that person had anything to do with the crime.

It was the nation's deadliest mass shooting since the attack at a school in Newtown, Connecticut, three years ago that left 26 children and adults dead.

Police shed no light on the motive for the massacre, but David Bowdich, assistant director of the FBI's Los Angeles office, said the bureau is looking at several possibilities, including workplace violence and terrorism. He did not elaborate.

The attackers invaded the Inland Regional Center and began shooting around 11 a.m. They opened fire in a conference area that the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health had rented out for a banquet, said Marybeth Feild, president and CEO of the nonprofit center.

Police spokeswoman Sgt. Vicki Cervantes said witnesses reported seeing one to three gunmen.

"They came prepared to do what they did, as if they were on a mission," the police chief said.

Burguan said that someone had left the county employees' event after "there was some type of dispute," but investigators were not sure whether that had anything to do with the subsequent massacre in the Southern California city of 214,000 people about 60 miles of Los Angeles.

Authorities also found a potential explosive device at the social service center.

As gunfire echoed through the large three-building complex, several people locked themselves in their offices, desperately waiting to be rescued by police. Some texted their loved ones or telephoned them and whispered to them what was going on.

"People shot. In the office waiting for cops. Pray for us. I am locked in an office," Terry Petit's daughter texted him.

Petit, choking back tears as the read the text for reporters at the shooting scene, said his daughter works at the center, where social workers find jobs, housing and transportation and provide other services to people with disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

Ten of the wounded were hospitalized in critical condition, and three were in serious condition, Fire Chief Tom Hannemann said.

That the violence happened at a place dedicated to helping people with developmental disabilities made it even harder for some to comprehend.

"These are all disabled kids, very disabled," said Sherry Esquerra, who was searching for her daughter and son-in-law, both of whom work at the center. "She gets all the services she possibly could for these kids. So I just don't understand why somebody would come in and start shooting."

Lack of sound in Chicago police videos raises more questions

CHICAGO (AP)—A police dash-cam video that captures a white Chicago officer fatally shooting a black teenager 16 times has no sound, nor do videos from four other squad cars at the scene. But department protocol indicates all the cruisers should have been recording audio that night.

The silence is almost sure to figure into the ongoing federal investigation of the case, and it raises questions about whether officers were careless with the recording equipment or, worse, attempting a cover-up.

"When you've got a standup cop with nothing to hide, the dash-cam is his friend," said Gregg Stutchman, who has specialized in video forensics in California for 23 years. "But for cops who aren't quite as standup, it would make sense that they wouldn't want things recorded."

Several experts on the type of equipment commonly installed in police vehicles told The Associated Press that it's plausible for a single squad car to have a glitch preventing sound recording. But they could not imagine how an entire fleet of cars would ever lose audio at the same time and place by mere happenstance.

"I've never heard of it before," Stutchman said. "It raises a red flag." The more likely explanation is that audio was intentionally switched off, he said.

The silent video at the core of the shooting case in Chicago shows officer Jason Van Dyke stepping out of his car on Oct. 20, 2014, and almost immediately opening fire on Laquan McDonald as he walks away from officers. Van Dyke continues to fire on the 17-year-old even after he crumples to the ground.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for construction of a Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Containment Barrier at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport Brown Tree Snake Containment Barrier Construction, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2015** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a 40' x 40' concrete containment barrier, inclusive of masonry work, touch up painting, electrical connection to existing panel, lighting and power, bituminous pavement, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars ($150.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or mis-entry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ JOSE F. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: November 20, 2015

ACROSS THE NATION

Heightened security amid Rockefeller Christmas Tree lighting

NEW YORK (AP)—A 10-ton Christmas tree with 45,000 LED lights covering about five miles of wire has come alive in the rain to cap New York City's annual ritual in Rockefeller Center. The ceremony—nationally televised by NBC on Wednesday evening—included performances by Sting, Mary J. Blige, Andrea Bocelli, James Taylor and other stars. Tens of thousands had a close-up view of the show. The celebration came with security restrictions including a prohibition on umbrellas. Backpacks also were barred from the midtown festivities amid massive security. Streets surrounding Rockefeller Plaza were closed and spectators were kept behind police barricades.

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ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR REPAIRS TO DELTA DOCK AT THE SAIPAN HARBOR Project No. CPA-SS-001-16

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the repairs to Delta Dock at the Saipan Harbor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project Number CPA-SS-001-16.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, November 13, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in harbor A/E design, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, and environmental review and permitting (25 points).
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points).
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects (15 points).
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence (15 points).
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time (10 points).
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., DECEMBER 4, 2015.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: November 2, 2015

Texas sues feds to block resettlement of 6 Syrian refugees

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas on Wednesday sued the U.S. government in an effort to block six Syrian refugees from resettling in Dallas this week. The lawsuit comes after the nonprofit International Rescue Committee said it would place Syrian refugees in Texas over the objections of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott. Texas, citing security concerns, is seeking to delay the arrival of the refugees for at least a week, until a federal judge can hear the challenge. The state says in the lawsuit that the IRC and the federal government have left Texas "uninformed about refugees that could well pose a security risk to Texans." The Obama administration has said that states don't have the authority to block refugees. The IRC, which was also named in the lawsuit, has repeatedly noted that Syrian refugees are the most security-vetted group of people who come into the U.S. The Obama administration says that vetting is thorough and can take up to two years.

Asia

Hearings begin in battle over relocating US base on Okinawa

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's government has violated the rights of Okinawa's residents for decades by allowing a heavy presence of American troops on the tiny southern island, Okinawa's governor told a court hearing Wednesday, the start of a legal battle over plans to relocate a U.S. air base.

The dispute over the base escalated into a legal battle after Japan's government filed a lawsuit against Okinawan Gov. Takeshi Onaga, seeking to overturn his cancellation of an earlier local approval for land reclamation needed for the base's relocation.

The long-stalled plan would move the U.S. Marine Air Station Futenma from a densely populated area to the island's seaside Henoko Bay. But many residents want the base moved out of the prefecture and have picketed the area, trying to prevent construction equipment from entering.

Onaga said in court on Wednesday that the lawsuit is not just about the legality of his revocation of the land reclamation approval, but about democracy and Okinawans' human rights, according to the text of his statement.

About 74 percent of the space exclusively used by U.S. military installations in Japan is concentrated on Okinawa, which is only 0.6 percent of Japan's land area.

"Do local autonomy and democracy really exist in Japan? Current national security forces the burden (of hosting U.S. bases) on Okinawa alone. Is it normal? I want to ask all Japanese people," he said at the hearing, held in Okinawa's prefectural capital of Naha.

Onaga noted that following Japan's defeat in World War II, U.S. occupation forces confiscated land from residents on Okinawa, and that the island was under U.S. occupation until 1972, 20 years longer than the rest of Japan. He said that Okinawans' will is still neglected, now by Japan's government.

Onaga was elected last year, widely supported by voters who feel Okinawa bears an unfair burden of the U.S. military presence. His anti-base stance has also made residents of Okinawa, an island with a distinct culture, more aware of their identity.

AP

In this March 23, 2015 photo, a child looks at the U.S. Marine Corps Futenma Air Station and the surrounding area from an observation deck at a park in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture on southern Japan.

Tetsuya Takahashi, a University of Tokyo professor and expert on the Okinawa base issue, said the lawsuit underscores Tokyo's "colonial-style" approach to Okinawa and could deepen the divide. "The central government is apparently waiting for Okinawans to give up, but they won't. The dispute could even escalate," he said.

Legal limbo awaits millions of future 'climate refugees'

NEW DELHI (AP)—Farmer Ajmad Miyah has given up on ever settling down again. Three years after the sea swallowed his home on the Bangladeshi coast, he still has no property or possessions, and survives by tilling other people's fields in exchange for food.

"I've accepted that this is reality," the lean, 36-year-old Miyah said in the island district of Bhola, where the Meghna River spills into the Bay of Bengal. "My house will always be temporary now, like me on this Earth."

At least 19.3 million people worldwide were driven from their homes by natural disasters last year—90 percent of which were related to weather events, according to the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Center.

Most have stayed within their own countries, including millions displaced in the South Asian delta nation of Bangladesh. But as their numbers rise, more will feel compelled to cross international borders in search of safe haven. They could end up in a state of a legal limbo with no rights or guaranteed help.

A study in November suggested 470 million to 760 million people worldwide could lose their land to rising seas in this century if global warming is allowed to continue unchecked. The study, by the nonprofit research and news organization Climate Central, looked at global population data and sea rise projections.

Some countries like Bangladesh and the Philippines stand to lose large portions of land; some small island nations like the Marshall Islands or the Maldives could effectively disappear.

The U.S. Department of Defense has called climate change "an urgent and growing threat to our national security, contributing to increased natural disasters, refugee flows, and conflicts over basic resources such as food and water," according to a report this year.

Yet climate change does not make one a refugee, a designation for people forced to leave their home countries because of war, persecution or other violence. Someone seeking refuge from environmental disaster cannot apply for refugee status, lacks protection under the U.N. High Convention for Refugees and can be sent back to their countries of origin without question at any time.

The issue may remain unresolved through the two-week summit in Paris, aimed at hammering out a new treaty to limit global warming and deal with its effects. The U.S. is among the countries that oppose addressing migration issues in the treaty.

"This is actually becoming a fast-developing disaster," said Harjeet Singh, the international policy manager for the advocacy group Action Aid International. "The world is still not talking enough about the climate migration that is going to happen."

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP15 – RED006

"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN MARPI, SAIPAN"

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 27, 2016

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and further commercial development of the following public lands (Marianas Resort and Spa and Golf Course area):

Lot Number	Current Use	Lot Size, M2
(West of Main Road - Oceanside)		
003 A 05	Race Cart Track	115,500
003 A 06	Mini Golf Course / Hotel	49,500
003 A 07	Main Lobby / Hotel / Cottages	69,300
003 A 08	Villas / Maintenance Facility	30,738
003 A 24	Vacant Land	109,003
	Group of Properties West of Main Road:	374,041
(East of Main Road - Inland)		
003 A 15	Pool / Baseball / Open Field	43,637
003 A 18 &	18 Hole Golf Course / Club House	905,784
008 A 01	House	30,000
064 A 02	Vacant Land	10,000
064 A 03	Vacant Land	39,000
086 A 01	Vacant Land	153,443
Part of TR 7-1 & 8	Vacant Land	56,759
	Group of Properties East of Main Road:	1,238,623
	Aggregate Area in Square Meters:	**1,612,664**

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by mail, or email. The request must be received by DPL no later than **February 26, 2016, 4:30pm ChST, reference "RFP15-RED006 LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN MARPI, SAIPAN**

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on February 26, 2016 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

PATRICIA S. RASA, Acting Secretary
Department of Public Lands

World

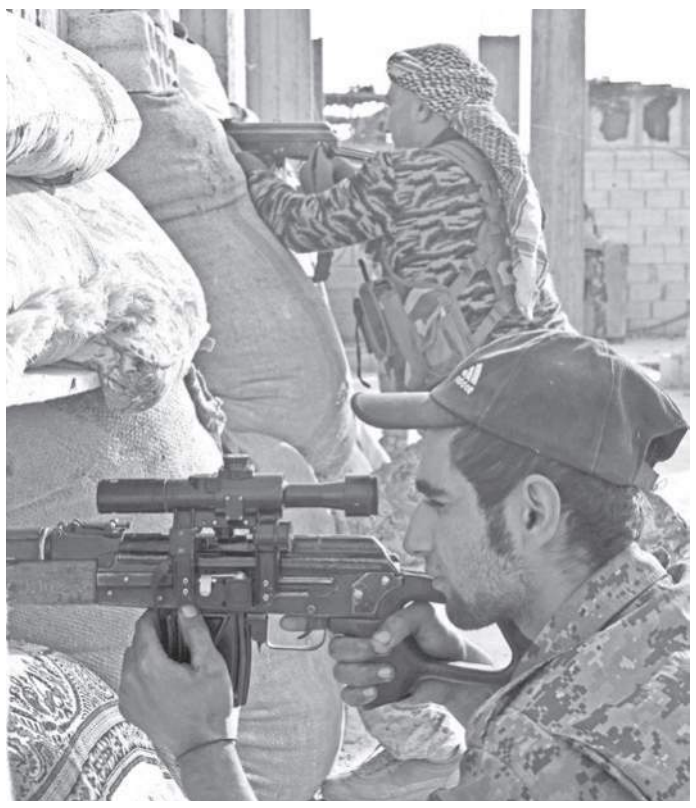
US-backed alliance faces challenges as a force in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Drawing on thousands of combatants from Syria's mix of religious and ethnic groups, a U.S.-backed alliance called the Syrian Democratic Forces has emerged as the most effective fighting force against the Islamic State group.

But the dominant role of Kurdish fighters in the alliance is a concern for majority Sunni Arab factions and their regional backers, raising questions about the group's future role in a broader political context in Syria.

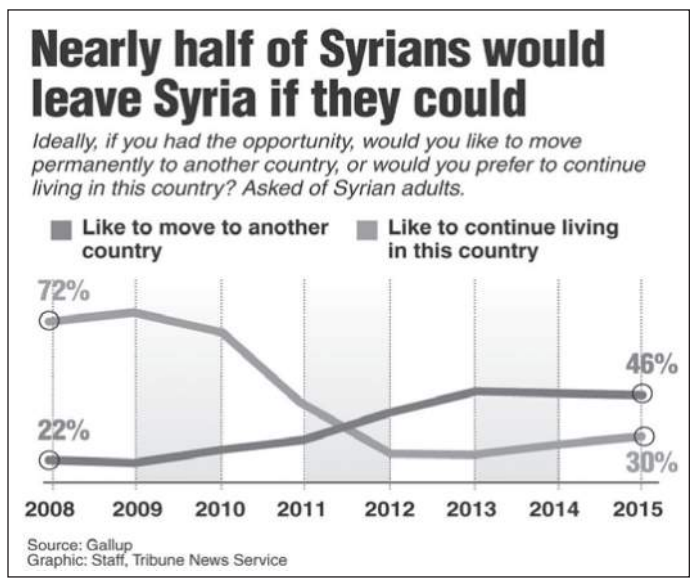
The coalition, which focuses on fighting the Islamic State, already faces opposition from other groups fighting to topple President Bashar Assad because those groups widely distrust the Kurds.

And while the coalition has been capturing territory steadily in northern Syria from the extremists, it is hampered greatly by its inability to retake areas with a majority Sunni Arab population.



AP

In this Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 file photo, Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) fighters take position at a stronghold in Kobani, Syria.



In a devastated landscape where extremists and Islamic groups largely preside, the Syrian Democratic Forces are the closest thing to an inclusive and moderate fighting force in Syria. It represents the largest of the non-government fighting forces arrayed against IS in Syria, with some estimates putting the number of fighters affiliated with the group at nearly 40,000.

"The Syria Democratic Forces are the most organized in the Syrian chaos," said Kurdish activist Mustafa Bali, speaking from the Kurdish town of Kobani in northern Syria. He said the group has a united command stretching from the predominantly Kurdish town of al-Malikiyah in the east to Afrin in the west, with new members joining the alliance on daily basis.

The group is led by the main Kurdish fighting force in Syria, the People's Protection Units, known as the YPG. It seeks to build on the success of the Euphrates Volcano, an alliance of Kurd and Arab factions that last year liberated Kobani from Islamic State militants.

Islamic State releases video claiming to kill Russian spy

MOSCOW (AP)—The Islamic State group on Wednesday released a video in which a Russian-speaking man confesses to spying for Russia's security service and then is shown apparently being beheaded by another Russian-speaking man.

The authenticity of the video or the claims in it could not immediately be confirmed and there was no comment from Russia's Foreign Ministry or its FSB security service. There was also no indication when and where the video was produced.

Russia on Sept. 30 launched airstrikes in Syria that it says are focused on IS fighters and the illegal oil trade that funds them. However, critics in both Syria and abroad claim that Russia is heavily targeting other rebel groups not affiliated with IS, in order to back up the forces of longtime Moscow ally Syrian President Bashar Assad.

IS claimed responsibility for bombing a Russian airliner shortly after it took off from the Egyptian resort of Sharm al-Sheikh in mid-October, killing all 224 people aboard.

The video begins with a graphic in Arabic and Russian, saying "You will be conquered and humiliated, O Russians."

Then a bearded man appearing to be in his late 20s is shown speaking from a chair. He says he is from Chechnya, identifies himself as Magomed Khasayev and says he is a spy sent to IS-held territories with orders from Russian intelligence to identify fighters who seek to return to the Caucasus region to carry out attacks.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-16-002

Typhoon Soudelor Disaster Recovery Project - CUC Central Warehouse Repairs

The Office of the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for repairs at CUC Central Warehouse in Lower Base, Saipan. As this project is time sensitive, contractors shall ensure that they have a good understanding of the project prior to making their bid proposal to avoid protracted contract discussion that will result in a successful expedited contract award to the selected Offeror.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays, **until December 15, 2015**. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division no later than 2:00 p.m. on December 15, 2015 in order to be considered.

A **mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** will be conducted at the Warehouse Building in Lower Base, Saipan on **December 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., ChST.** Immediately after the conference, Site Visits to Warehouse facility will be arranged. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC Central Warehouse Repairs, CUC-RFP-16-002" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 31, 2015 at 10:00 AM,** local time. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying

labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on **December 21, 2015,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email: manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Assistant, Procurement Division via email: marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective proposers who have registered for the solicitation with CUC procurement division.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Bid in the interest of the Corporation. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement, Delivery and Programming of Radio Equipment for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
Project No. CPA-SA-002-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure, deliver and program/configure brand new radio equipment for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and programming of frequencies for all new equipment.

The radio equipment shall include the quantities and details as provided in the scope of work and product specifications provided with the scope. The scope and product data are available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office.

The proposals shall include the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Team Members;
3. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
4. Available resources to accomplish the project;
5. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
6. Valid Business License.

The contract period for procurement and installation will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the acceptance date without approved excuse by CPA.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., **FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

The procurement is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

All This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Total cost for equipment procurement, delivery and programming	35%
2.	Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	35%
3.	Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
4.	Timeframe for delivery and programming	10%

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to Assistant ARFF Chief William Camacho at bcamacho@cpa.gov.mp.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman /Contracting Officer

Date: December 3, 2015

Off The Wall

Cop pays thief's tab for stolen birthday cake ingredients

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Modesto man wins $10M lottery minutes after winning $1K

MODESTO, Calif. (AP)—A Modesto man's lucky hunch paid off when he won a $1,000 lottery prize and immediately bought more tickets—winning $10 million with one of them. California lottery officials say Rodney Meadows was out running errands Nov. 23 when he decided to pick up some $30 California Lottery 30th anniversary scratcher tickets at a Modesto store. He won $1,000 on the first ticket he bought. KCRA-TV reports (http://bit.ly/1O2q3wt) Meadows decided to buy three more tickets a minute later and that's when he scratched the ticket that made him a millionaire. Meadows says he had to ask the store clerk to check his ticket at the machine because he couldn't believe he had won $10 million. He says he doesn't yet know how he'll spend his winnings.

Santa obliges dad of sleeping boy with snoozing photo

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP)—When Donnie Walters took son Zeke to have his picture taken with Santa Claus, the 6-month-old boy couldn't stay awake while they waited in line. So Santa obliged Walters and posed asleep with the snoozing child resting on his belly. Walters posted the photos of the sleeping pair on Facebook. The photos taken Nov. 25 at Evansville's Eastland Mall and posted the following day have been liked 371,000 times and shared more than 195,000. Walters tells USA Today that "everyone has been very kind." He says most comments referred to how much the pictures have brightened people's day.

State officials unsure what caused town's 'cat urine' smell

NEW CASTLE, Pa. (AP)—Pennsylvania environmental officials can't explain why residents of one city thought part of their town smelled like cat urine last year. The New Castle News reports a state Department of Environmental Protection report was inconclusive. The department says it's likely that some kind of waste containing mesityl oxide mixed with some kind of sulfur compound to create the smell. But air samples and testing of substances at the city's sewage treatment plant didn't turn up a source of the substances. Mesityl oxide is used in paint removers, as a solvent and in insect repellents. The city first contacted Pennsylvania environmental officials in October 2014. New Castle is about 45 miles northwest of Pittsburgh.

Tallest American chestnut tree found in southwestern Maine

LOVELL, Maine (AP)—The American Chestnut Foundation says the tallest known American chestnut tree in North America has been found in a forest in southwestern Maine. The Portland Press Herald reports the nonprofit conservation group said Tuesday that foresters with the Maine Forest Service and the University of Maine measured the tree in Lovell at 115 feet. The next-tallest American chestnut tree is about 20 feet shorter. An official measurement was to take place Wednesday. The tree is located on land donated to the University of Maine Foundation by the family of painter Douglas Volk. A fungal pathogen has been deemed responsible for the decimation of the tree across the country. It's estimated that only a few dozen large chestnut trees are left standing in Maine.

Oklahoma officer drives miniature donkey to safety

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—A suburban Oklahoma City police officer picked up an unusual subject found wandering along a rural road. Norman police Officer Kyle Canaan says it took a little pushing, pulling and some animal feed, but he got the miniature donkey nicknamed "Squishy" into the back of his patrol car and out of harm's way Tuesday morning. Canaan responded after a woman found the animal on the loose. She told local media she had a pen to keep the donkey in but no way to get it there. The officer tells TV station KFOR the animal fit perfectly in his vehicle. He says, "I rolled the window down for it." The woman who found Squishy says if an owner doesn't come forward, she plans to keep the donkey.

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire police officer who responded to a shoplifting incident didn't make an arrest but instead paid the thief's tab after learning the woman stole the items to bake her child's birthday cake.

Officer Michael Kotsonis, a 19-year member of the Portsmouth force, responded to a call last week at the Ocean State Job Lots after a woman had stolen cake mix, shortening and "a couple things of frosting," the Portsmouth Herald reported.

After learning the woman's identity, Kotsonis went to her home to recover the items. It was there that he found that the woman was a mother who wanted to bake her child a birthday cake.

Kotsonis says the mother's actions weren't right, but, "I'm not going to take away a kid's birthday cake." He went back to the store and bought the items. The woman wasn't charged.

A store employee reported his gesture to the newspaper. Frank Warchol, acting deputy police chief, said he wouldn't have known about it either if not for a reporter's call. He said Kotsonis exemplifies the department's mission emphasizing community, commitment and compassion.

"I didn't do it for the attention," Kotsonis said Tuesday. "What you do when no one is looking, that's the character of someone."

Turkish court asks: is Gollum good or bad?

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A Turkish court overseeing the case of a doctor accused of insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has ruled that a committee of experts should assess whether the fictional Lord of the Rings character Gollum is good or bad.

Bilgin Ciftci faces up to two years in prison for allegedly insulting a state official by juxtaposing pictures of Gollum and Erdogan on social media.

Lawyer Hicran Danisman told the AP Wednesday that she was forced to argue in court this week that "Gollum is not a bad character" because she got "nowhere" with a defense case based on freedom of expression.

Danisman said that prompted the judge to rule that a committee, including psychologists and movie experts, should provide an assessment of Gollum's character.

Trial was adjourned until Feb. 23.

A Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007 file photo showing a visitor looking at original studies of 'Gollum' at the exhibition "The Lord of the Rings" at the Movie Park of Potsdam-Babelsberg, Germany. AP

Robert Tenorio Torres
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Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
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Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,	**Civil Action No. 14-0223**
Plaintiff,	**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR AN ORDER OF JUDICIAL SALE OF DEFENDANT'S REMAINING LEASEHOLD INTEREST ON THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY**
vs.	
KIM EUGENE FORRESTER	**Date: December 15, 2015**
Defendant.	**Time: 1:30pm**
	Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 15th day of December, 2015 at 1:30pm a hearing will be held before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Plaintiff's Motion for an Order of Judicial Sale of Defendant's remaining leasehold interest on the Mortgage Property in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 27th day of November, 2015.

/s/
Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300 • Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE

DCRM AGENCY MEETING POSTPONED

Notice is hereby given that the meeting for the DCRM Agency Officials scheduled for December 10, 2015, has been postponed until further notice.

/s/
FRANCES A. CASTRO
DCRM Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 15-061

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2015
Closing Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Maintenance Worker

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Management Analyst or designee, Executive Director's Office. Performs routine preventative and general maintenance of buildings, grounds, equipment and systems in accordance with safety procedures and safe work practices. Maintains cleanliness of facilities including sweeping, mopping, buffing and vacuuming floors and carpets; cleans surfaces including doors, windows and work surfaces; dusts shelving and equipment; performs custodial duties; and collects and disposes trash. Performs basic building maintenance; replaces light bulbs; performs basic repairs such as door knob replacement, blower fan repair, and other routine equipment repairs; maintains order with equipment, furnishings, work areas and supplies. Notifies appropriate resource for advanced troubleshooting or repair work. Performs basic grounds keeping and facilities maintenance; inspects areas to maintain safety and eliminate general hazards. Reviews supply needs and replenishes supply stock such as tissue, paper towels, trash liners and other supply needs; moves file boxes or other items to storage areas; ensures proper storage of cleaning materials, equipment and tools. Performs inventory check of supplies and initiates requests for replenishment. Maintains activity records or logs. Assists skilled maintenance workers with project tasks; may assist with basic carpentry, plumbing and electrical work. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Administration (Dandan Office), Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $14,704.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : One (1)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Knowledge of: Applicable tools and equipment of assigned maintenance tasks; Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skills in: Performing routine and preventative maintenance in assigned area; Performing housekeeping or custodial work; Performing basic equipment or system repairs; Monitoring grounds and work areas for hazards and safety; Reviewing and replenishing stock supplies; Initiating stock and equipment replacement; Maintaining activity records or logs; Assisting with basic carpentry, plumbing and/or electrical work; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Science & Technology

Growing push to expose more students to computer science

MARYSVILLE, Wash. (AP)—Moving her finger over the laptop trackpad, 6-year-old Lauren Meek drags and drops a block of code to build a set of instructions. She clicks the "run" button and watches as the character moves through a maze. She then pumps her fist in excitement.

"Yes! This is so easy," says Meek, a kindergartener at Marshall Elementary in Marysville, north of Seattle.

This fall, most elementary school students in the Marysville School District are getting 40-minute weekly computer science lessons as part of their core instruction—part of a growing effort nationwide to expose more public school children to computer science, even as early as in kindergarten.

Backed by technology leaders, nonprofits and companies, schools in New York, San Francisco and other cities have committed to offer computer science to students in all grade levels. Chicago also says computer science will eventually become a high school requirement.

Supporters say it's not just about learning how to code, but learning how computers work. They say computer science teaches kids to think logically, be creative and exposes them early to the technology that will drive their future.

"In the 21st century, computer science is just as foundational as biology, chemistry," said Hadi Partovi, founder and CEO of Code.org, a Seattle-based national nonprofit that works to expand access to computer science and increase participation by women and minorities.

The group is also behind a campaign to get millions of students to participate in an "Hour of Code," which takes place next week.

Bringing computer science into the schools ensures that everyone has an opportunity to become digitally literate, said Yasmin Kafai, a professor of learning sciences at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education.

AP
In this photo taken Nov. 4, 2015, kindergartner Lauren Meek, second left, works with a pair of second graders as they work on programming during their weekly computer science lesson at Marshall Elementary School in Marysville, Wash.

"We're not talking about turning everybody into a computer programmer or computer scientist," said Kafai. "It's a basic literacy."

Learning computer science also opens the door to high-demand jobs. By 2020, 4.6 million of 9.2 million science, technology, engineering and math jobs will be in computing, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Jim Taylor, author of "Raising Generation Tech," says there's no evidence at this point that coding or computational learning works or is even needed. Kids don't need to learn how to use digital technology at such a young age either, he added.

"Technology is the solution du jour for all our education problems. The problem is that technology emerges so quickly and gains traction that we don't have time to examine its efficacy or ramifications," Taylor said.

Computer science doesn't enjoy the benefits of other disciplines, including agreed-upon standards or robust assessments to measure learning, said Jeanne Century, director of Outlier Research & Evaluation at the University of Chicago's Center for Elementary Mathematics and Science Education.

But it's the same argument as for science and math, she said. There are practical issues, such as more jobs requiring computer science. "Just as important is the fact that computing is everywhere in our lives. It's pervasive all around us. We need to understand computing."

Most searched in 2015? Bobbi Kristina Brown, says Yahoo

NEW YORK (AP)—Internet searchers had celebrities on the mind this year: Famous names made up eight of the top 10 searches on Yahoo in 2015.

The Internet company said that the late Bobbi Kristina Brown, daughter of late singer Whitney Houston, was the year's most searched term. Brown died at age 22 in July, about six months after she was found unresponsive in a bathtub.

Yahoo released its list Wednesday ahead of those of its much bigger search engine rivals Google and Microsoft's Bing.

The second most searched term on Yahoo was iPhone, the company said, likely because Apple released a new version of the smartphone in September. It sold 13 million of them in the first three days of its release.

Caitlyn Jenner, who publicly transitioned to a woman this year, was third on the list. She was followed by daughter Kendall Jenner, a model and star of reality TV show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians."

The two Jenners surpassed the only other member of the Kardashian clan to make the list: Kim Kardashian, who came in at No. 7.

Yahoo users also looked up video game "Minecraft," former "Friends" star Jennifer Aniston, singer Katy Perry and Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter Ronda Rousey. "Teen Mom" star Farrah Abraham bottomed out the top 10.

Ebola, last year's most searched term, didn't make the list in 2015.

Yahoo said it excluded directions and adult searches, including porn, when compiling its list.

TOP 10 SEARCHES OF 2015

1. Bobbi Kristina Brown
2. iPhone
3. Caitlyn Jenner
4. Kendall Jenner
5. Minecraft
6. Jennifer Aniston
7. Kim Kardashian
8. Katy Perry
9. Ronda Rousey
10. Farrah Abraham

Source: Yahoo Inc.

Facebook CEO $45B organization to change charity landscape

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is shaking up yet another sector—the charity world—with his surprise announcement that he and his wife will devote the bulk of their wealth, or about $45 billion, to philanthropic works.

The move will eventually put him and his wife, Priscilla Chan, in the same philanthropic echelon as Bill and Melinda Gates. It also involves a new type of philanthropic structure that differs from traditional foundations, although details on that remain scarce.

Zuckerberg made his pledge on Facebook in celebration of his daughter Max's birth.

The Zuckerbergs said Tuesday they will, over time, commit 99 percent of their Facebook stockholdings to such causes as fighting disease, improving education and "building strong communities." The couple had previously pledged to give away at least half their assets during their lifetime, but hadn't provided specifics.

The announcement stunned the charity world. "It's incredibly impressive and an enormous commitment that really eclipses anything that we've seen in terms of size," said Phil Buchanan, president of the nonprofit Center for Effective Philanthropy.

The new organization, called the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, will pursue its initiatives through a combination of charitable donations, private investment and promotion of government-policy reform.

By comparison, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has an endowment of just over $41 billion, which includes wealth donated by the Microsoft founder and his friend, the businessman Warren Buffett.

The new initiative will be organized as a limited liability company, however, rather than as a nonprofit foundation. "They want the most flexibility and they are going to use a wide variety of activities to achieve their mission," Rachael Horwitz, a Facebook spokeswoman, said via email. "So in that way this is not a foundation nor is it entirely charitable."

The Facebook co-founder is one of the world's wealthiest men. He and Chan, a 30-year-old pediatrician, have previously donated $100 million to public schools in Newark, New Jersey, and pledged $120 million to schools in poor communities of the San Francisco Bay Area. They've also given $75 million to the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, where Chan did her medical training.

In a statement, Facebook said the couple's plan to transfer their shares over time won't affect his status as controlling shareholder of the company. The company said Zuckerberg has committed to dispose of no more than $1 billion of Facebook stock every year for the next three years.

TECH Q&A

Viewing our new PC screen on a smart TV

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I'm trying to show photo slides from my Windows 10 desktop PC on my Samsung Smart TV. But the TV's software apparently isn't compatible with Windows 10. Any ideas?

A: Since 2013, Samsung Smart TVs have had a built-in wireless feature called "Smart View." It allows you to view what's on your PC's screen on the TV, a process called "screen mirroring." But so far, Smart View isn't compatible with Windows 10.

Fortunately, there's a workaround: Use a Miracast device that plugs into your TV's HDMI port and takes the place of Smart View. Miracast, which is the name of a wireless technology rather than a specific product, works with Windows 10, Samsung Smart TV and other newer HDTVs. Miracast devices (sometimes mistakenly called WiDi, a related wireless product made only by Intel) are made by several manufacturers, and include the Belkin Miracast Video Adapter ($60), Google Chromecast ($35) and Microsoft Wireless Display adapter ($60.) To set up Windows 10 to work with a Miracast device, see tinyurl.com/zxv2dt8.

For the curious, Miracast works by using "Wi-Fi Direct" technology, a cousin of the Wi-Fi home networking standard. Wi-Fi Direct allows a PC, tablet computer or smartphone to communicate directly with a TV without going through a Wi-Fi router.

Q: I would like to clean the files of an old computer before giving the PC to a friend. What's the best way to do that?

A: Since you're giving the computer to a friend, the question is how completely you want to erase the PC's data.

You could delete the files you want to get rid of, but that only makes them invisible to the average user by removing their data addresses on the hard disk. Reformatting the hard disk deletes the PC's file system for managing data (as well as Windows itself), but some data may remain. In either case, anyone with a file recovery program can retrieve the leftover data.

A better alternative is file-shredding software that permanently eliminates selected files on the PC. Those files are overwritten (and thus obliterated) using "data sanitization" methods, some of them also used by the Department of Defense and the National Security Agency (see tinyurl.com/hgwbvfb.) For a list of free file-shredding programs, see tinyurl.com/zlsnho2.

You can also eliminate everything on the hard drive by "wiping" it with a "data destruction" program. However, these programs eradicate all data on the hard disk, including Windows. That means your friend would need to buy a new copy of Windows in order to use the PC. For directions on how to wipe a hard drive, see tinyurl.com/8xjorb5. For a list of free data destruction programs, see tinyurl.com/7zsjtbm.

Life & Style

‘Carol’ dominates New York Film Critics Circle Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Todd Haynes’ 1950s lesbian romance “Carol” dominated the New York Film Critics Circle Awards, taking best film and a leading four awards overall.

Announcing their picks Wednesday on Twitter, the New York critics voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Patricia Highsmith adaption starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara. They also awarded best director for Haynes, best screenplay for Phyllis Nagy and best cinematography for Edward Lachman.

Haynes’ previous ‘50s-set film, 2002’s “Far From Heaven,” was also enthusiastically supported by the New York film critics, winning five awards including best film.

Best actor went to Michael Keaton, who plays one of the journalists that make up the ensemble cast of the Boston Globe drama “Spotlight.” Saoirse Ronan earned best actress for her performance as an Irish immigrant in “Brooklyn.”

Kristen Stewart landed best supporting actress for her performance as an actor’s assistant in Olivier Assayas’ “Clouds of Sils Maria.” (Stewart won a Cesar Award for the role earlier this year, the first American actress to win at the French awards.) Best supporting actor went to Mark Rylance, who plays Soviet spy Rudolf Abel in Steven Spielberg’s Cold War drama “Bridge of Spies.”

This year’s Oscar race is seen by many as wide open, and the early results from various groups have done nothing to dispel that. On Monday, “Spotlight” topped the Gotham Independent Awards. On Tuesday, the National Board of Review elected “Mad Max: Fury Road” its best film of the year.

Things continue to heat up over the next week with the Los Angeles Critics Association announcing its awards on Sunday. Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe nominations are also coming next week.

The NYFCC, one of the country’s most influential critics groups, will surely add momentum to the Academy Awards fortunes of “Carol,” which has thus far only played in extremely limited release.

“Timbuktu,” a Mali drama about a village under jihadist control nominated earlier this year for the Oscars, won best foreign language film. Frederick Wiseman’s Queens documentary, “In Jackson Heights,” took best documentary. And Pixar’s “Inside Out” earned best animated film.

The group also announced several special awards, including one for composer Ennio Morricone, who scored Quentin Tarantino’s upcoming “The Hateful Eight,” and another honoring the legacy of William Becker and Janus Films. Becker, who made Janus one of the premiere art-house distributors, died in September.

The awards will be handed out in a ceremony on Jan. 4.

Sinatra gets star-studded tribute for centennial birthday

LAS VEGAS (AP)—100 is turning out to be a very good year for Frank Sinatra.

What would have been the musical icon‘s centennial birthday on Dec. 12 has been celebrated with an HBO documentary about his life, a Grammy museum exhibit, even dinner specials at an old Las Vegas steakhouse.

A star-studded, Grammy-produced tribute show at the Wynn Las Vegas resort-casino on Wednesday night caps the festivities.

Among the stars paying tribute to Frank Sinatra are Tony Bennett, Garth Brooks, Alicia Keys, John Legend, Adam Levine, Carrie Underwood and Usher.

The two-hour concert airs Sunday from 9 to 11 p.m. EST/PST on CBS.

Daughter Tina Sinatra says the family had been developing plans for a tribute concert in the back of their minds since her father‘s death in 1998.

“His legacy is the music, and his music is the legacy. And that‘s what cannot die,“ she said.

It was after the Grammy‘s tribute to the Beatles last year that Tina Sinatra walked into the office of CBS chairman and CEO Les Moonves and her question was answered before she could even ask it.

“I know what you‘re here for and the answer is yes,“ she said Moonves said.

The same producer, AEG Ehrlich Ventures, responsible for The Beatles tribute and shows honoring Whitney Houston and Stevie Wonder is returning for the Sinatra concert.

Choosing a fitting location to honor the Hoboken, New Jersey-native came down to New York or Las Vegas, where he crooned often.

“Las Vegas seemed more on the nose,“ she said.

Asked what Sinatra himself might think of the lineup and performances if he were sitting in the front row, Grammy president and CEO Neil Portnow said, “I hope he‘d feel the love and the joy in the room about being able to celebrate all that he has provided for so many millions, for so many decades and will continue in the future,“ adding that the crooner would have a blast. “Doobie-doobie do.“

Lenny Kravitz turns camera on paparazzi in photo exhibit

MIAMI (AP)—Legendary rocker Lenny Kravitz’s photo exhibit was never meant to turn out the way it did.

While shooting photos on his days off from touring, Kravitz set out hoping to capture soulful photographs and people in their everyday environments. But each time he stepped out with his camera, fans followed and paparazzi flocked.

“It started out being a real nuisance because I wanted to shoot. I wanted time to do my thing and be anonymous,” Kravitz told The Associated Press during a personal tour of his exhibit Wednesday. The black and white collection titled “Flash” runs through Dec. 6 as part of Art Basel Miami Beach.

He blames the social media craze for people forgetting basic manners and respect for one another.

“It’s really weird that people feel they have a right to invade your space in any kind of way.”

After several frustrating encounters, the rocker turned the camera on the crowds and started clicking—almost a joke at first. But then something changed.

AP

In this image taken from video, Musician Lenny Kravitz stands in front of one of his photos from his exhibit “Flash”, which is running in conjunction with Art Basel in Miami Beach, Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015.

“Life and art is about accepting and taking what you’re organically given ... this is what life is bringing me at this moment, don’t be pissed off about it.”

As he developed the photos, he found himself no longer categorizing the people, but sensing their individual stories in their eyes, expressions and moods.

“I just began to really look into the people” and found “curiosity, happiness, pain, intrigue ... frustration, love, everything, just people, human emotions.”

Kravitz is among dozens of celebs, including Hilary Swank, Sylvester Stallone, Eva Longoria and Katie Holmes, who are in town for the prestigious art fair, which is an extension of the annual contemporary art fair in Basel, Switzerland. The fair officially opens Thursday, but many independent fairs and star-studded parties are already underway.

Woman in a loveless marriage should weight out her options

DEAR ABBY: After a marriage of many years, I have come to realize ours has become simply one of convenience. My husband is a negative and controlling person who gripes about everything and anything. He has developed no friendships or interests of his own, and I have to battle with him to even have a day to myself.

How many other women are like me—stuck in loveless marriages without the resources to live on our own (at least in the lifestyle we are accustomed to)? Any advice for me?

IN LIMBO OUT WEST

DEAR IN LIMBO: If my mail is any indication, you have lots of company in your boat. Many women stay because they are afraid to live alone or see nothing better on the horizon. No third party can or should answer this question for you.

Make a list of the pros and cons of your marriage, tally them up and weigh the “cons” against how you feel living the life you are living now. A licensed counselor may be able to steer you in the right direction—which may entail marriage counseling and/or consulting a lawyer or your CPA about what other options you may have.

DEAR ABBY: I’m a busy sixth grader who has played piano for seven years. But my busy schedule gets in the way of piano because I have to prep for competitions. I love the piano, but I still need to keep up with my school schedule.

If I tell my grandma I want to quit piano, she’ll be disappointed. I already quit violin in orchestra. So this means my music life will be over. Should I still do it or not?

STRESSED-OUT MUSICIAN

DEAR MUSICIAN: Unless your music causes your grades to drop, continue with the piano for as long as you can. There may come a time when other things must take precedence, but you never can tell how beneficial your musical education may be when you’re an adult.

You’re an intelligent young woman, so let me share this true story with you: A man here in Los Angeles studied classical piano for many years. He had talent, but didn’t consider himself good enough to make it his career. He married, went to law school, passed the bar—and wound up becoming one of the most successful lawyers in town representing entertainers.

You never can tell where life may lead, so the more talents you nourish, the wider your options will be.

DEAR ABBY: My husband demands we give our first child the name “Junior” as his legal first name, supposedly to honor the baby’s paternal grandpa, who is also called Junior.

I am vehemently opposed to it because Jr. is a title, not a name, and also because Grandpa is a notorious drunk, criminal and adulterer. I am open to ANY other name my husband may want, but he won’t budge. Who should win out?

DUE SOON IN SYRACUSE

DEAR DUE SOON: You should! Naming a child after someone is supposed to be an honor, and from your description, your father-in-law isn’t someone who deserves one.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

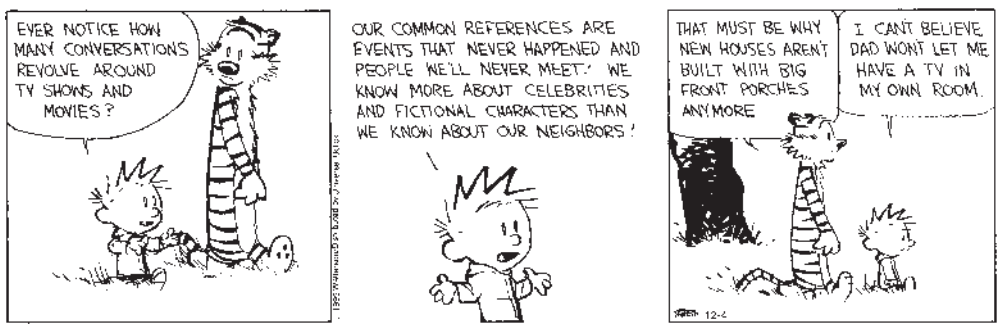
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson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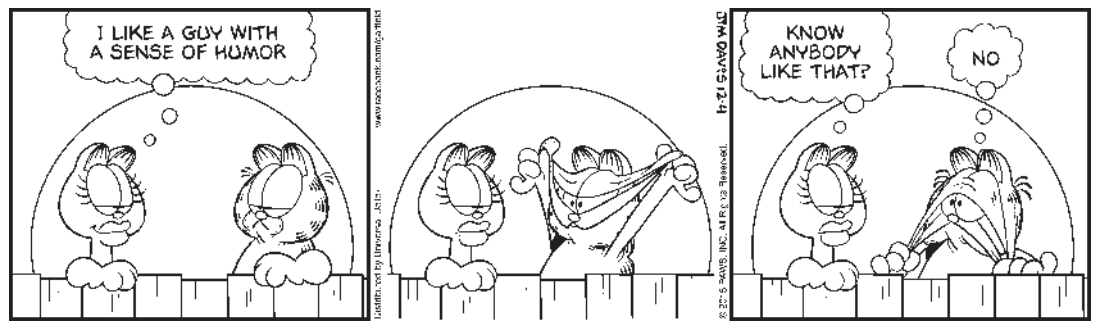
I CAN'T BELIEVE DAD WON'T LET ME HAVE A TV IN MY OWN ROOM.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



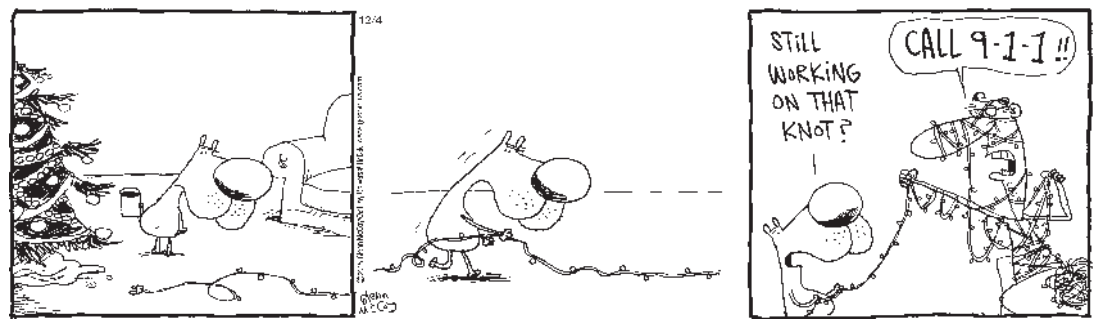
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SEE ANYTHING YOUR MOM WOULD LIKE?
OH! SHE'D LOVE THAT ONE.
HERE YOU ARE, SIR.
LET'S JUST SEE HOW MUCH THIS LITTLE...
NOPE! NOT THAT ONE! I DON'T THINK SHE'D LIKE THAT ONE AT ALL!! NO, SIR!
PERHAPS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MORE OF A "BAUBLE."
PERHAPS!
DAD, YOU'RE SWEATING ON ME.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

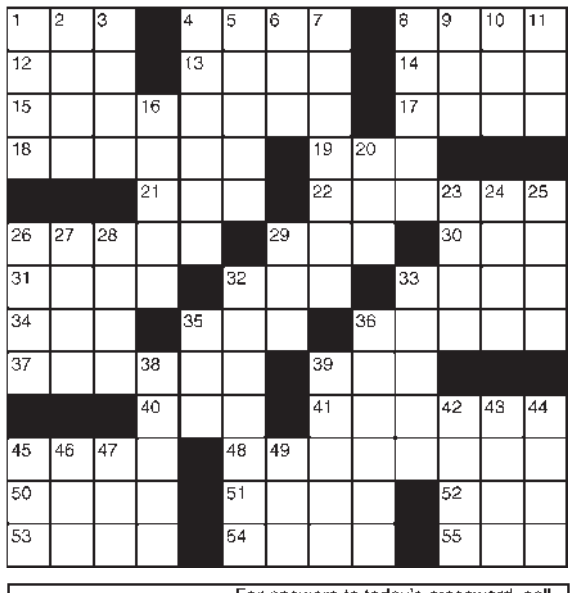
ACROSS
1 Big pig
4 River barriers
8 Harvard rival
12 Wall St. debut
13 Paella pot
14 Luau strings
15 Start of an Austin Powers catch phrase
17 Blanchett of "The Aviator"
18 Wings it
19 Dry, as wine
21 Baby bug
22 Like challah bread
26 "Toy Symphony" composer
29 Chair for prayer
30 Mouths (Lat.)
31 Moises of diamonds
32 Swedish airline
33 "The Good Earth" woman
34 Last letter, in Leeds
35 Spa sounds
36 Painter's coverall
37 Annual
39 RR stop
40 Choose
41 Muppets creator Jim
45 "Yikes!"
48 "What a silly goose!"
50 Magician's opener
51 — de gallo (fresh salsa)
52 Supped
53 Kitchen wrap
54 Lodge fellows
55 Crock

DOWN
1 Slangy greeting
2 Pundit's column
3 Orr score
4 Farm horse
5 Make — -ditch effort
6 Org. for Tigers
7 Agrees (to)
8 Desert plant
9 Alias preceder
10 Allow
11 Jargon suffix
16 Brahman, for one
20 "Yuk!"
23 Han or Napoleon
24 Farm machine (Abbr.)
25 Quick pull
26 —, hot and humid
27 Shielded, at sea
28 "Star Wars" sage
29 Dads
32 Bashful person
33 Saudi neighbor
35 Swiss peak
36 "Mad Men" office-workers
38 — flush
39 Do corny work?
42 Crisp cookie
43 Aware of
44 "No, Vladimir!"
45 Bumbler
46 "Girls" airer
47 3-D exam
49 Lucky strike?

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	S	S	T	■	P	A	N	T	■	F	T	C
O	P	I	E	■	A	B	B	A	■	A	H	A
T	U	M	M	Y	T	U	C	K	■	S	O	R
S	N	I	P	F	S	■	■	F	N	T	R	Y
■	■	■	L	A	■	I	H	R	O	B	■	■
J	A	D	E	■	B	R	O	■	D	U	C	T
E	D	U	■	■	R	A	H	■	■	C	H	E
N	O	M	S	■	I	P	C	■	A	K	I	N
■	■	B	A	T	E	S	■	A	D	■	■	■
C	E	L	L	O	■	■	A	L	I	C	E	S
O	S	U	■	D	A	F	F	Y	D	U	C	K
Z	A	C	■	O	P	A	L	■	A	B	O	Y
Y	U	K	■	S	E	X	Y	■	S	A	L	E

Yesterday's answer 12-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyra Banks, 42; Jay-Z, 46; Marisa Tomei, 51; Jeff Bridges, 66.

Happy Birthday: Take the time to reorganize your home, your personal life and your professional plans for the future. It's important to know what you want before you waste time flitting around looking for unrealistic alternatives. Choose to do something that allows you to use the skills you enjoy and feel confident displaying, and you will be successful. Love will stabilize your life. Your numbers are 2, 5, 12, 22, 28, 37, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Focus on doing what needs to be done and finish what you start. Taking care of business will leave you more time to enjoy your friends. A short trip will help you gain perspective on something you are considering. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take any chance you get to work alongside your peers or to learn from someone who has more experience than you. Take care of your children's or pet's medical needs. A short trip will prove beneficial. Someone from your past will surprise you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't overspend on entertainment or trying to impress others. Making donations is admirable, but not if it leaves you in a vulnerable position. Emotional matters will be difficult to understand if honesty isn't prevalent. Say what's on your mind and keep moving. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may want to help others, but in doing so, make sure you aren't shortchanging yourself. You'll face opposition at home if you spend too much time or money on outsiders instead of taking care of business at home. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A short trip or a change of pace will give you breathing room to consider your next move. You have more options than you realize, and with the end of the year approaching, you'll want to start working toward new goals. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't overreact or argue. Take care of your responsibilities and move on to more enjoyable pastimes. Getting together with someone who is facing a similar situation will give you the courage and confidence to do what you have to. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Make plans with friends or change your environment by visiting unfamiliar places. Don't overspend on items or people. You can't buy love. Instead, try to make a good impression. Put your needs first. Reassess your situation. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Home improvement projects will be a prosperous investment. Don't be afraid to offer a helping hand instead of making a donation. The experience will be gratifying and could lead to new contacts. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Communication with others will be difficult. Misunderstandings will put you in a precarious position. Get your facts straight and don't share information that could be used against you. Stick close to home and avoid mishaps, delays and disappointments. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't be too eager to make changes. Stick to what you know and do best, especially when it comes to legal, financial or medical concerns. Trust in yourself, not in what others try to lead you to believe. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't get depressed—get moving. You have a host of great ideas that can improve your status, reputation and professional position. Let your trendy, innovative ideas lead the way. Follow your heart and invest in your ideas. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll suffer emotionally if you share your personal secrets with others. Don't trust anyone to keep a promise. Focus on what you can do to keep the peace and help others without divulging your personal opinions or problems. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are clever, sociable and intuitive. You are helpful and forgiving.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4		7			
3								4
	1		9		2		8	
8		6				2		3
4		5				1		6
	2		3		8		7	
9								5
			5		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	2	9	4	7	3	6	5
4	7	9	3	5	6	2	1	8
6	3	5	2	8	1	9	7	4
1	2	4	6	9	8	5	3	7
3	6	8	4	7	5	1	2	9
9	5	7	1	2	3	8	4	6
5	9	1	7	3	4	6	8	2
2	4	3	8	6	9	7	5	1
7	8	6	5	1	2	4	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

JAPANESE PANKO BREAD CRUMBS Solution: 7 letters

H	C	S	E	K	A	B	P	R	A	W	N	S	C	W
S	O	T	N	S	M	O	O	R	H	S	U	M	E	F
I	A	E	O	A	N	S	A	L	T	G	A	T	G	L
F	R	L	L	K	I	T	V	E	A	L	S	N	A	O
O	S	T	M	C	K	S	A	R	N	T	I	E	G	U
T	E	U	H	O	S	K	A	E	E	Z	M	I	O	N
A	O	C	C	D	N	P	K	K	I	N	H	Y	L	D
T	I	F	N	D	S	C	R	R	R	S	T	R	D	E
O	N	T	U	A	I	A	E	O	U	U	G	F	E	R
P	I	I	R	H	M	V	C	S	B	R	O	W	N	E
M	H	L	C	R	L	O	O	I	A	P	O	R	K	T
I	C	A	E	U	V	C	L	I	I	K	C	I	T	S
R	C	P	P	E	A	A	N	Y	R	D	A	E	R	B
H	U	I	R	T	H	D	O	O	F	A	E	S	N	O
S	Z	A	O	N	I	O	N	R	I	N	G	S	G	L

© 2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 12/4

Asian, Asparagus, Bake, Bread, Brown, Chicken, Coarse, Cornmeal, Cover, Crunch, Cutlets, Dry, Fish, Flounder, Fry, Golden, Grain, Haddock, Halibut, Lamb, Lobster, Mushrooms, Onion Rings, Pork, Potato, Prawns, Pulverizing, Salmon, Salt, Seafood, Shrimp, Skin, Steak, Stew, Stick, Supermarkets, Sushi, Tacos, Tilapia, Tofu, Veal, Zucchini

Yesterday's Answer: Old-fashioned

Purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 or 44** in time for the holidays by calling 1-800-642-6480. Order on ne at WonderWordBooks.com

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Minimum of one (1) year work experience, preferably in hospitality. Previous cashiering experience is required. Must be able to write, read and speak fluently in Chinese and English. Must be able to work evenings, graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays.

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Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, December 17th, 2015.
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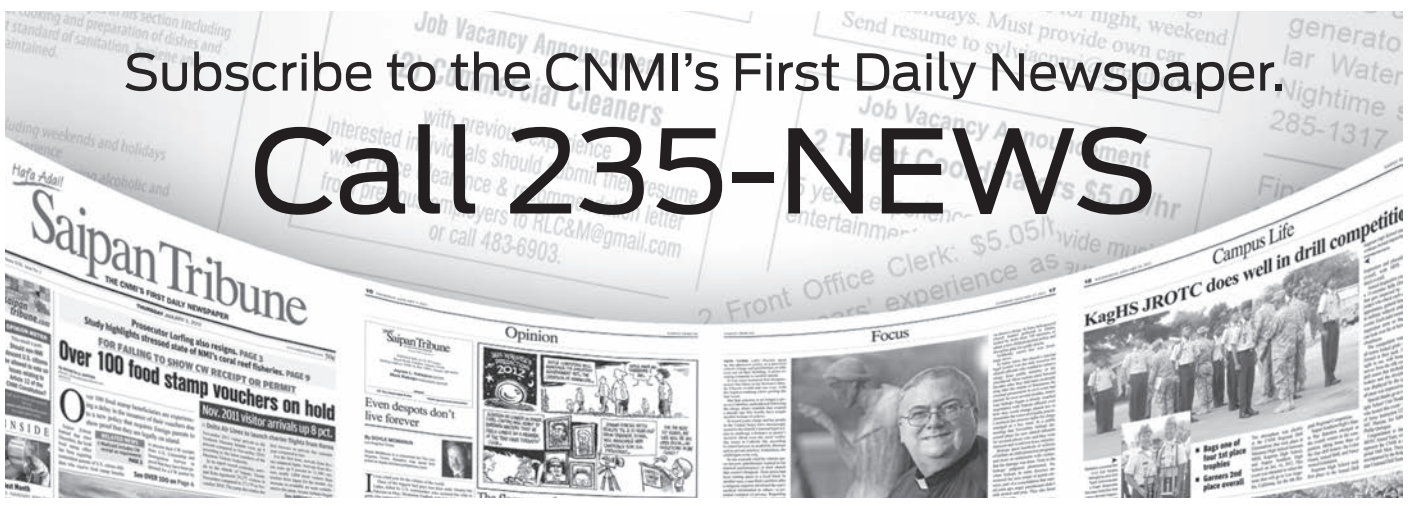

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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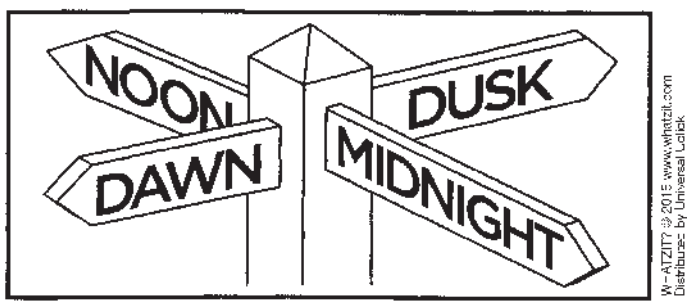
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section

Curry scores 40, Warriors top Hornets to go 20-0

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Stephen Curry scored 40 points in three quarters and the Golden State Warriors defeated the Charlotte Hornets 116-99 on Wednesday night to extend the best start in NBA history to 20-0.

On a night when the Hornets honored Curry's father, Dell, the franchise's career scoring leader, it was his oldest son who stole the spotlight by hitting 14 of 18 shots from the field and going 8 for 11 from 3-point range.

Stephen Curry, who grew up in Charlotte and starred at nearby Davidson College, scored 28 points in the pivotal third quarter, including his team's final 24. He hit 10 of 11 shots from the field, including all five 3s, to help the Warriors build a 21-point cushion.

The reigning MVP sat out the entire fourth quarter due to the big lead.

Klay Thompson had 15 of his 21 points in the first quarter as the Warriors bolted to an early 15-point lead.

Nicolas Batum led Charlotte with 17 points and eight rebounds.

AP
Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, left, drives past Charlotte Hornets guard Kemba Walker in the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015 in Charlotte, N.C.

Lakers 108, Wizards 104

In Washington, Kobe Bryant scored 12 of his season-high 31 points in the fourth quarter of his final game in Washington to help Los Angeles beat the Wizards.

Julius Randle had 15 points and a career-best 19 rebounds for the Lakers (3-15), who snapped a seven-game losing streak. Jordan Clarkson added 18 points as Los Angeles finished a stretch of four games in five days.

Bryant played 36 minutes in his second game since announcing his plans to retire after this season, his 20th in the NBA. He left the Verizon Center floor to thunderous applause from what remained from a crowd of 20,356, Washington's third sellout of the season.

John Wall had 34 points and 11 assists for Washington, which lost a day after beating LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers on the road. The Wizards have dropped four of five despite erasing an early 19-point deficit.

Hawks 96, Raptors 86

In Atlanta, Kyle Lowry scored 22 of his season-high 31 points in the fourth quarter, DeMar DeRozan added 17 and Toronto rallied from 17 down in the third to beat Atlanta.

Lowry overcame flu-like symptoms that forced him from the game in the second period. He returned to begin the third, but didn't build momentum until the fourth when Toronto outscored the Hawks 39-20.

The Raptors, who have won five of six, scored just 32 points in the first half. Lowry's 3-pointer made it 80-75 and he hit a fast-break layup to make it 82-75 with 4:54 remaining.

Paul Millsap scored 14 points for the Hawks.

Pacers 103, Clippers 91

In Los Angles, Paul George had 31 points and 10 rebounds, and the streaking Indiana Pacers broke open a close game early in the fourth quarter to beat injury-depleted Los Angeles for their sixth consecutive victory.

Rodney Stuckey scored 18 points and Jordan Hill had 13 points and eight rebounds for the Pacers, who have won 12 of 14 after opening the season with three straight defeats. Their only losses during that stretch were by four points at Cleveland and one at Chicago.

The victory was the 2,000th in Pacers history, spanning 40 seasons in the NBA and nine in the ABA.

Blake Griffin and Lance Stephenson each scored 19 points to lead the Clippers, who had won three in a row. They shot 38 percent, their second-lowest mark of the season.

Los Angeles played without All-Star point guard Chris Paul, a late scratch due to a strained rib muscle. Paul is expected to miss more than one game, according to coach Doc Rivers.

Clippers guard J.J. Redick sprained his right ankle on the first possession of the game. He made two free throws but was soon removed and did not return.

Spurs 95, Bucks 70

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 16 points and 10 rebounds in 19 minutes, and San Antonio remained undefeated at home by beating Milwaukee.

The Bucks set season lows for points and field goal percentage (33.8) in falling to 2-8 on the road.

San Antonio (15-4) improved to 10-0 at home while extending its overall winning streak against the Bucks to seven games.

Patty Mills had 13 points and Kawhi Leonard also scored 13 on 3-of-12 shooting for the Spurs.

Khris Middleton had 16 points for the Bucks.

Rockets 108, Pelicans 101

In Houston, James Harden scored 24 points and Houston overcame a double-digit deficit against New Orleans.

Anthony Davis had 29 points and 13 rebounds for the Pelicans, who dropped their fourth straight. They led by 14 early, but the Rockets whittled down the lead by halftime and led by two after three quarters.

New Orleans led by one after a 3-pointer by Toney Douglas with about 9 minutes left. Houston then used a 10-0 run, with the first five points from Harden, to make it 96-87 just 4 minutes later. The Pelicans had three turnovers and missed eight shots to help the Rockets pull away.

Harden's 3-pointer made it 99-92 with 3:13 left.

Bulls 99, Nuggets 90

In Chicago, Pau Gasol had 26 points and 19 rebounds to lead Chicago over struggling Denver.

Gasol shot 12 for 19 from the field and had his fifth consecutive double-double for the Bulls, who won for the third time in four games and improved to 7-1 at home. Jimmy Butler, playing through a lingering right heel contusion, scored 19 points in 39 minutes.

Derrick Rose finished with 12 points on 3-for-17 shooting.

Will Barton scored 16 points and Kenneth Faried had 14 points and nine rebounds as Denver lost its eighth straight. The Nuggets, who shot 39 percent from the field, led 72-68 heading into the fourth quarter.

Pistons 127, Suns 122, OT

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Reggie Jackson scored 24 of his 34 points after halftime, and Detroit rallied from 16 down in the fourth quarter to beat Phoenix.

Andre Drummond, the worst free throw shooter in NBA history, hit a pair from the line with 14.3 seconds left to tie the game at 112, and Eric Bledsoe missed an off-balance jumper at the buzzer.

The Pistons started overtime with an 8-1 run, but Phoenix narrowed the gap to 122-120 with 1:27 to play. The Suns had chances to tie it in the last 35 seconds, but P.J. Tucker was called for an offensive foul and T.J. Warren missed a contested layup. Brandon Knight missed a 3-pointer that would have tied it.

Phoenix played without Tyson Chandler (hamstring) and Markieff Morris (bruised knee).

Knicks 99, 76ers 87

In New York, Kristaps Porzingis had 17 points and 10 rebounds to lead New York over the Philadelphia 76ers, who played without suspended rookie Jahlil Okafor.

A night after winning for the first time this season, the 76ers suspended their leading scorer after the release of a second video provided details of his fight in Boston he hadn't revealed to them.

Arron Afflalo added 13 points for the Knicks, who snapped a four-game skid. Carmelo Anthony, back after missing a game with an illness, scored 12 points and shot 5 for 16.

Philadelphia was 9 for 30 on 3-pointers.

76ers suspend center Jahlil Okafor for 2 games after fight

NEW YORK (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers suspended rookie Jahlil Okafor two games Wednesday after the release of a second video provided details of his fight in Boston he hadn't revealed to them.

Coach Brett Brown said the organization wanted to show "tough love" toward Okafor, adding that he was surprised by what he saw in the new video posted by TMZ on Wednesday.

"I think that if lessons are to be learned and this 19-year-old young man has to learn the responsibility of wearing a 76er uniform and carrying an NBA logo, and it has to be done in the magnitude and the national media spotlight as it has been delivered to make our point, then I say that's not a bad thing," Brown said before the 76ers faced the New York Knicks.

"Let's make our point. It is hard love. There have been mistakes that have been made, he does own it," he said. "Nobody's proud of this right now and so we will support him, he's ours and we will move on."

The second video showed Okafor fighting in Boston the night of a loss to the Celtics last month, prompting local police to urge anyone who was assaulted to come forward.

The 19-year-old rookie has said he is embarrassed by his behavior. He said the fight happened when he was responding to heckling by fans.

Brown said he wasn't angry with Okafor, but also said the center from Duke didn't give him the whole story during a conversation in Houston after the first video.

"He actually told me what had happened," Brown said. "The details, the further details that came out surprised me, surprised us. He told us (sketchily) that he was in a situation that he regretted. As far as the play-by-play of what happened, he did not go into that. Today we learned more and the thing I do say is when I spent time with Jahlil in his room today, he is ashamed, he's embarrassed and this has caught him off guard."

Okafor was also cited in Oct. 19 for reckless driving and speeding on the Ben Franklin Bridge, which connects Philadelphia with New Jersey.

Brown said Tuesday night that Okafor will likely soon be accompanied by team security on public outings.

The videos appear to show two separate scuffles. In one, Okafor is seen shoving a man. Another shows Okafor shouting and a man lying on the sidewalk bleeding from his face.

"We have a victim from the first incident and we are urging anyone else to come forward if they were assaulted," said Boston police spokeswoman Myeshia Henderson.

On Friday, one man filed a police report saying he was punched and knocked to the ground, and needed stitches to close a cut above his eye.

The man told police the fight broke out after some of his female friends refused the advances of two other men, including one believed to be Okafor.

Brown said the Sixers worked with Okafor's representatives and the NBA in determining the punishment, but wasn't sure if there would be more from the league. And he defended the organization's response to the initial video.

"We felt like our point was made," Brown said. "Instances like that are obviously disturbing but at that time we felt like nobody was hiding, nobody was soft. We felt like we made the correct decision. And with this additional news, with this additional information, we've come out and decided to do what we have done."

Manning says he doesn't know when he'll be back

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—All the speculation over returning Brock Osweiler to his backup role when Peyton Manning gets back could prove a waste of time.

Manning isn't close to being healthy.

The Denver Broncos' 39-year-quarterback told a select group of news outlets Wednesday, including The Associated Press, that he has no idea when he'll play again.

Sitting at his locker to take the weight off his injured left foot, Manning said during a nine-minute interview that his focus isn't on his future or who starts at quarterback for the Broncos (9-2).

"That's so far ahead of what I'm thinking about," Manning said. "I'm doing what Coach Kubiak asked me to do, is to try to get healthy. I'm following his instructions and I look forward to being healthy yesterday, I can assure you. This cast is kind of like a holding pattern. Everybody asks, 'Is it better? Is it better?' The answer is: I don't know because I'm not putting any pressure on it and it's sort of immobilized.

"But the idea is for it to help toward the healing process. But there's no guarantee whatsoever. So, all the other questions and speculation, I don't have anything for you on that."

Manning consulted with noted foot specialist Dr. Robert Anderson in Charlotte, North Carolina, last week "and everybody wants to know what did he say? He said I have an injured foot. And everybody says, 'Well, when did he say you're going to get better?' When it heals. You know, some earth-shattering medical information there," Manning said.

Despite the 10 pieces of mail he gets every day with "solutions and suggestions, some healing medicines, which I appreciate," Manning said Anderson told him "there's no magic fix to this, it's kind of an individual thing."

Manning had the walking cast removed Tuesday night and now he's in a bulkier walking boot until Friday. He said he'll start his rehab Saturday "and after that I'm just kind of on a one-week-at-a-time basis."

That's how Osweiler and coach Gary Kubiak characterized Osweiler's starting status Wednesday amid rampant speculation that the Broncos should stick with the longtime backup with the offense humming along with big wins over Chicago and New England.

Osweiler said he's not ready to view his starting job as more than a temporary gig.

"You know, I'm not really focused with how long am I going to be the starter? Am I the starter? Am I not the starter?" Osweiler said. "All I know is I'm the starter this week against the Chargers."

After practice, Kubiak said nothing's changed from his perspective: Osweiler's his quarterback this week and the goal is to try to get Manning healthy and back on the field as soon as possible.

Manning revealed his foot has been bothering him for much of the season, although he declined to say exactly when he first hurt it, suggesting "timelines and all that are kind of irrelevant. It's bothering me now."

Playing on the turf in Indianapolis on Nov. 8 exacerbated the injury. He was replaced by Osweiler in the third quarter against the Chiefs the following week after throwing four interceptions on the same day he became the NFL's all-time passing yards leader.

He remains tied with Brett Favre for most wins by a starting quarterback in the regular season with 186.

Under Osweiler, the Broncos are a much different team. The athletic quarterback's ability to run bootlegs and play action has opened up Kubiak's zone-based offense, which had been modified for Manning.

Osweiler credited Manning with giving him tips at halftime Sunday night that helped Denver come back from a two-touchdown deficit to beat the previously undefeated Patriots 30-24 in overtime.

Sorry, Johnny: Browns name Davis—not Manziel—new starter

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Austin Davis has scaled the Browns depth chart over the past few weeks. It's an annual tradition this time of year for Cleveland quarterbacks.

After weeks as a third-stringer, Davis is the new starter—No. 24 for the club since 1999.

"I've heard that number tossed around," Davis said when asked about a number that perhaps best underscores this franchise's continued woes.

The merry-go-round took another spin Wednesday as coach Mike Pettine picked Davis over Johnny Manziel to start Sunday against the Cincinnati Bengals. The switch was necessary because Josh McCown, who spent most of the season absorbing body blows like a boxer's sparring partner, broke his right collarbone Monday night against Baltimore and will miss the final five games.

Pettine said his decision to play Davis and not Manziel—recently demoted for breaking a promise to Cleveland's coaches to behave during the bye week—had nothing to do with punishing one player but rewarding another.

"He deserves this opportunity," Pettine said of Davis, who replaced an injured McCown in the fourth quarter.

Pettine is only committing to Davis, who went 3-5 in eight starts for St. Louis last season, as his starter for this week.

"We'll revisit this," Pettine said. "These are two players that we both want to see play is the bottom line. I don't want to declare, 'Hey, this is what it's going to be from here on out.' These are two young quarterbacks that have upside and we want to see what that upside is. Austin's the guy for this week."

Pettine said the Browns are not dissatisfied with Manziel. The 22-year-old 2012 Heisman Trophy winner has given no indication he wants out of Cleveland.

Davis now gets to show the Browns what he can do with more time to prepare.

Rushed into action for McCown, the 26-year-old Davis threw a tying touchdown pass and moved the Browns into position for a winning field goal. But Travis Coons' 51-yard attempt was blocked by the Ravens and returned 64 yards for a TD as time expired, sending the Browns (2-9) to their sixth straight loss—a defeat as crushing as any in recent memory for Cleveland.

Davis completed 7 of 10 passes—he went for 6 for 6 on the scoring drive—for 77 yards. And he did it after hearing some Browns fans chant "John-ny, John-ny," hoping Pettine would free Manziel from his doghouse.

Pettine praised Davis' mental approach and work ethic, saying he is "as prepared as any quarterback that I've been around."

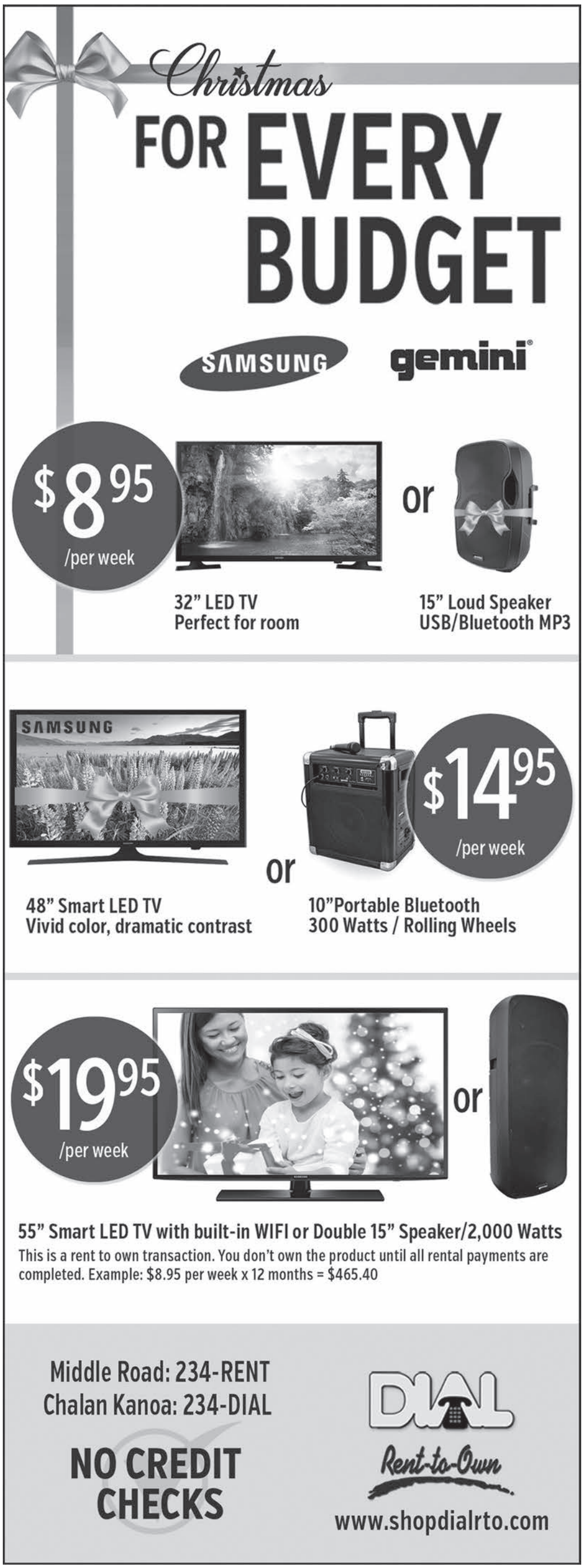
Davis said the fear of failure drives him.

"I hate feeling unprepared for anything, especially being quarterback on an NFL football team. I feel like there are so many people that are counting on you and looking at you to play well," he said. "The fact of letting people down just bothers me. That's where just the hard work and prep comes from. It's a big responsibility."

While it's a new beginning for Davis, McCown's first season in Cleveland ended in disappointment and his right arm in a sling. McCown divulged for the first time that he played several games with broken ribs.

In typical fashion, McCown, 36, downplayed the physical toll taken on his body. For him, the bigger suffering is in not finishing with his teammates.

"I'm not the only guy that is fighting through stuff," he said. "What's the hardest thing for me to deal with in this situation is you just want to be available for your teammates and be there for your guys and so when you can't be, it hurts. It hurts more than any of the physical things."



SBL to help young players transition

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi is hoping that all the teams that will be competing in the upcoming 2016 season would get more youth players.

Rogolifoi told the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that players who are still eligible to play in the Big League division of the Saipan Little League are welcome to join any team in the SBL.

Verlance Secharmidal, Frankie Lieto, Keola Camacho, Jose Lizama Jr., and most of the players on the Jets team of manager Froilan Camacho Jr. are just some of Big Leaguers that played in the SBL last season.

He added that SBL wants to help all youth players, especially those who had already finished their eligibility in the Big League division, to slowly transition to the adult brand of playing baseball.

"SBL is encouraging all teams that will join this season to recruit more young players. We want to see more young players from the Big League division of the Saipan Little League next season," said Rogolifoi.

JON PEREZ

Darrion Jones, left, and a number of other Big League division players in the Saipan Little League are eligible to see action in the upcoming 2016 season of the Saipan Baseball League.

"In this way they help the young players, especially those who graduated from the Big League division, transition from the Little League program into playing against the veterans."

Rogolifoi added that in the process the SBL is helping the players develop their skills in order to advance to a higher level.

"It also helps the younger players develop their skills. That's what the local baseball program is for, youth development," added Rogolifoi, who guided the CNMI to gold medals in the 2006 Saipan Micronesian Games and the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

Rogolifoi, who is also the executive director of the Northern Marianas Sports Association, said the SBL also wants to become an instrument where some of the CNMI's top baseball players earn the chance of getting athletic scholarships in the mainland.

"The SBL wanted to create a pathway for local players to advance and see action in the mainland. At least a junior college or if there's a possibility a Division II school in the NCAA," added Rogolifoi.

"Sure the competition there will be tough but it is for their own good. They should go and learn more about playing baseball."

Josh Jones and Trey Rabauliman are currently members of separate school baseball teams in the mainland with the former playing for the University of West Alabama Tigers, while the latter is seeing action for the Lower Columbia College Red Devils in Longview, Washington.

Jones helped the Tigers, who swept the Gulf South Conference tournament, to a second straight crown that earned them a spot on the NCAA Division II regionals.

Rabauliman, on the other hand, earned a spot on the Northwest Athletic Conference Division second team last season where the LCC Red Devils clinched the NWAC baseball crown.

Salvi hopes injury won't bother him in Guam weightlifting tilt

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Salvi Villanueva is hoping that his injury won't be a problem when he and four others compete in next week's 2015 Micronesia Weightlifting Invitational in Guam set next Saturday, Dec. 12.

Villanueva, Bonny Cruz, Angel San Nicolas, Ray Santos, and Joey Tudela will be joining the one-day tournament at The Jungle inside the Father Duenas Memorial School in Mangilao.

They are entered in different weight classes where they will be aiming for podium finishes in the snatch, clean and jerk, and the total weight events.

"I had to nurse a tweaked shoulder for a couple of weeks but I'm about 100 percent with my strength," said Villanueva, who added that he and the four other CNMI weightlifters have prepared hard in going up against the region's best.

Villanueva is also fresh from a silver medal win in the 4th Marianas Trench Throwdown, a CrossFit competition, last October in Tamuning.

Though busy with work and his nursing classes at the Northern Marianas College, where he works at the external relations office, he still managed to balance everything and had the time to train.

"Most of the time I mostly train with Bonny at Gold's Gym but sometimes on my own. I've been really compressed with work and classes for nursing so it's difficult," Villanueva added.

He and Ray Santos won six of the CNMI's 12 medals in weightlifting in last year's Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

Villanueva took home the bronze medals in the 77-kilogram division with lifts of 86kg in the snatch and 115kg in the clean and jerk for a 201kg total. He will also compete in the Guam tournament in the same weight category.

Santos won the silver medals in the 62kg weight class ended up with a 215kg total (92kg snatch, 126kg clean and jerk). He will either see action in the same weight division or the heavier 69kg category.

Cruz, like Santos, will either compete in the 69kg or 77kg weight class, while San Nicolas and Tudela are entered in the 94kg and 85kg divisions.

The Guam Weightlifting Federation is organizing the inaugural tournament with the help of Guam National Olympic Committee president Ric Blas and the GNOC board.

The Federated States of Micronesia—Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpeii, and Yap—Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Palau were also invited by GWF president Ryan Claros to compete in the event.

Villanueva also plans to return to Guam with Tudela, and Nicole Harkness, who also competed in the October Trench Throwdown, in another CrossFit event in January this time organized this by CrossFit Latte Stone.

Tudela and Harkness finished 12th and 15th places, respectively, among the 44 men and 22 women that competed from six different gyms in Guam and three individuals from Saipan.

SIS

From Page 32

blockers and looking for open space at the backline.

When the game resumed, SIS outscored MCS, 13-4, to force a deadlock, 15-all. Luther Lizama had several points in the rally off his spikes and on a few occasions also tricked the Knights blockers with his dinks. Credit also went to Allen Cepeda and Colin Ramsey, who set up Lizama for those spikes.

After the first standoff, the opposing teams went back and forth in the ensuing plays with the set tied for the last time at 19-all after SIS blockers foiled a spike from Amog.

Another SIS block—against the lanky Yun—gave the Geckos the lead and they moved within two points from wrapping up the set after a dink from Colin Ramsey, 23-20. However, two errors from SIS—Allen's short service and Lizama's wide spike—kept the Knights' hopes alive, 22-23.

Amog then tried to knot the count with a spike, but was blocked by Daniel Lim. Lim served for the game point with the ball dropping to the right back corner of MCS' court and two Knights players struggling for the dig. The Knight failed to return the ball after three touches with the third shot hitting the net.

In the second set, Mt. Carmel attempted to gain lost ground and was a bit successful in the early goings, but faded away in the succeeding phase of the match as SIS was really in a zone with Lim and Lizama again alternately hitting those big spikes and Allen and Colin Ramsey setting them up. Quintin Ramsey also played well, getting those serves in, while Chan Woo Jeong occasionally came into the picture, unloading a couple of spikes. Jason Kim and Young Jin Jung provided quality minutes receiving returns from the Knights and letting their other teammates score the points.

After MCS evened up the count, 5-all, SIS had a killer 11-0 spurt capped by Jeong's spike against the much smaller Amog. In that Geckos rally, the Knights called two timeouts, hoping to douse cold water to a fiery run from SIS, but they simply could not stop Lim and company. Lim scored at least four hits down the line, while the Ramsey siblings had one ace apiece.

The Knights finally ended their silence with a block on Jeong, however SIS was quick to retaliate and duplicated its biggest lead in the second set, 23-12, after an ace from Lizama. Lizama served anew and there was a bit of a rally before the ball dropped past the service area off a wide return from MCS' Darian Salas. Lizama served anew for the match point and the Knights managed to return the shot. However, Lim came out soaring for another line hit and the ball went over the left back side of MCS with J.D. Pangelinan receiving it, but had an errant return to the SIS side with Jeong letting it go past the line to win it for the Geckos.

SIS , which also had Alfredo Guevarra and Mili Saiki as coaches, was presented with the championship trophy after the title match, while MCS went home with the runner-up award.

Meanwhile, it's another SIS-MCS title showdown in the girls high school title match today, while the final pairing in the co-ed middle school has yet to be announced as results of yesterday's semis matches were unavailable at press time.

CNMI

From Page 32

Meanwhile, this weekend's tournament will have a full 64-player draw in both the girls and boys singles divisions.

The draws and seeded player are unavailable at press time, but the tournament website indicated that participants will include the winners in the Victorian, New South Wales, and Queensland State Championships and qualifiers from Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, ACT, Tasmania, and Northern Territory. Players from Japan and China are also entered in the tournament.

Besides the singles tournament in Australia, the CNMI players-led group will also compete in a team tournament next week.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	12	7	.632	—
Boston	10	8	.556	1½
New York	9	10	.474	3
Brooklyn	5	13	.278	6½
Philadelphia	1	19	.050	11½

Southeast Division

Miami	10	6	.625	—
Atlanta	12	9	.571	½
Charlotte	10	8	.556	1
Orlando	10	8	.556	1
Washington	7	9	.438	3

Central Division

Cleveland	13	5	.722	—
Indiana	12	5	.706	½
Chicago	11	5	.688	1
Detroit	10	9	.526	3½
Milwaukee	7	12	.368	6½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	15	4	.789	—
Memphis	11	8	.579	4
Dallas	11	8	.579	4
Houston	8	11	.421	7
New Orleans	4	15	.211	11

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	11	7	.611	—
Utah	8	8	.500	2
Minnesota	8	10	.444	3
Portland	7	12	.368	4½
Denver	6	13	.316	5½

Pacific Division

Golden State	20	0	1.000	—
L.A. Clippers	10	9	.526	9½
Phoenix	8	11	.421	11½
Sacramento	7	12	.368	12½
L.A. Lakers	3	15	.167	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

140 bikers to race in Hell of Marianas

More than 100 bikers will hit the road this Saturday as they compete in the 2015 Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle Race.

According to Pivot LLC's Kelli Wedd, 140 have registered for the weekend event with most of the bikers (90) coming from Saipan. Guam has the second most entries with 19, while Korea has 18 representatives. Other bikers are from Japan (5), U.S. (3), Taiwan (3), and Russia (2).

Russia will be led by men's division defending champion Konstantin Fast, while Guam's Mieko Carey, who won last year's women's race, will also return to vie for back-to-back titles.

Of the 140 entries, eight teams will join the two-person event, while six are competing in the four-person division.

Bikers are asked to pick up race packets today at the lobby of Mariana Resort from 2pm to 6pm and be at the starting line at the same hotel before the 6:15am start time tomorrow.

From the starting line, riders will head first to Palms Resort for the U-turn before proceeding to the Marpi area where they will pass through Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff for the first 25K of the 100K event.

For the next 25K, bikers will go south through Beach Road and will pedal straight to the villages of San Antonio (Pacific Islands Club/50K mark) and Koblerville. From Koblerville, they will head to the Airport Road and up to the villages of San Vicente, Papago and Kagman. The Laolao Bay Golf & Resort entrance will be the turning point for the 75K as riders head down to Kingfisher Golf Links and Capitol Hill before making a decent to As Matuis (Radar Hill) and then back to Mariana Resort for the finish.

All riders must make the 1:15pm cutoff to get an official time from the race. Motorists and pedestrians, on the other hand, are reminded to take extra caution during race time at the areas and villages mentioned above. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

JON PEREZ

A group of cyclists negotiates a curve near the road heading to Bird Island Lookout in the Northern portion of Saipan in last year's Hell of the Marianas. The island's most challenging cycling race returns tomorrow.

Pacesetters get contrasting wins in JP World caging

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Ice's Derrick Rangamar goes up for a left-handed layup against Top Development, Inc.'s Allen Reyes during the first quarter of their game in the JP caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Co-leaders Tan Holdings and Micronesian Brokers, Inc./Kentucky Fried Chicken took separate routes to victories in the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League this week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Tan Holdings eased past Saipan Ice in last Wednesday's game, 95-60, while MBI/KFC labored for a 76-73 win against the same team in the curtain-raiser last Friday. Tan Holdings and MBI/KFC remained unbeaten in four games, while Saipan Ice absorbed its fourth loss in five matches.

In the Tan Holdings-Saipan Ice tiff, the former opened a 30-7 lead in the first quarter to set up the lopsided win.

Gerald Rivera, Elmer Esdrelon, and Adrian Palacios combined for 21 of Fiesta's total output in the opening frame to take early control of the match. Saipan Ice fell behind and never recovered as it was held to three field goals in the first quarter.

Against MBI/KFC, Saipan Ice was neck-and-neck with its foe, but the former prevailed in the end, thanks to a pair of free throws from Justine Zapanta and a split from Angelo Fernando.

Saipan Ice has dropped its last four games after winning its debut against Cape Air, 78-41. Cape Air has withdrawn from the league when matches resumed last month.

Mariana Resort 77, CUC 66

In the second game last Monday, Mariana Resort & Spa notched its second win after topping Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Bryan Manglona led the victory, as he knocked in 14 of his 25 points in the final quarter. The fourth period started with Mariana Resort ahead by only a hair, 50-49, before it pulled away behind the successive baskets of Manglona, who drilled 8 of the team's last 11 markers and also had 5 straight markers early in the pivotal frame.

Docomo 65, Mariana Resort 57

Docomo also bagged its second victory in four matches after outclassing Mariana Resort in the lone game played last Friday.

Docomo played better in the first half to build enough cushion and withstand Mariana Resort's rally in the second. Docomo took a promising 40-21 halftime advantage after holding Mariana Resort to 8 points in the opening quarter and outscoring its foe anew in the second, 23-13.

Both teams slowed down in the third, but this time Mariana Resort won the exchange, 14-10, to stay in the game, 35-50. However, Mariana Resort failed to overhaul Docomo's lead in the fourth despite recording its biggest output in a quarter (22).

Tony Diaz scored 9 of Docomo's 15 points in the fourth quarter to foil Mariana Resort's comeback bid.

Meanwhile, the other game last Friday had CUC winning over Top Development, Inc. via default.

TDI 79, Saipan Ice 77

TDI earlier barged into the win column after nipping Saipan Ice in an overtime game last Nov. 25.

TDI spread the wealth in the extra five minutes to outlast Saipan Ice, as five different players scored for the former in the extension. Raymond Velasco led Saipan Ice with his 6 points in overtime, while Jommel Pollisco knocked in the go-ahead basket, and Arwin Reyes, Henry Manipol, and Nestro Arreza added one field goal apiece. Derrick Rangamar scored all of Saipan Ice's 12 points.

MGA changes venue of December, yearend tournament

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Marianas Golf Association announced yesterday that the venue for the December Ace of the Month and the first day of the Ace of Aces yearend tournaments on Saturday has been changed.

MGA president J.J. Atalig said that instead of the picturesque east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort the two tournaments will be held at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

The availability of Laolao's Greg Norman-designed golf course is the reason for the change of venue.

Laolao's operations manager Tony Satur said both the east and west courses are fully booked. "We're fully booked in the morning and we can't accommodate [MGA's] 9am tee time."

Atalig also reminded all Ace of the Month winners to arrive on time so the pairings could be done properly so both tournaments start on time.

The MGA chief had already warned Ace of the Month winners to be on time for the final monthly event and the first round of their yearend tournament or face disqualification.

"[I want] to inform monthly winners to be on time for proper pairing. If they should be late there is a possibility that they'll be disqualified from the Ace of Aces championship," said Atalig in last week's email.

MGA members will again vie for the final monthly crown, the December Ace. Show time is set at 8am while tee off begins on time after one hour.

The first day of MGA's Ace of Aces Championship, where the monthly winners will vie for the yearend crown, will also take place simultaneously with the December Ace.

Harry Nakamura (January), Calvin Yamagishi (February), Jess Seman (March), Erlinda Naputi (April), Jenny Hegland (May), Chandler DeLoatch (June), Jay Muna (July), Geri Dela Cruz (August), Louie Tilipao (September), Ned Norita (October), and Jonny Sablan (November) are the 11 monthly winners.

Joey Dela Cruz (vice president), Geri Dela Cruz (secretary), James Benavente (treasurer), DeLoatch (tournament director), and Jerry Ayuyu (handicap chairman) are the other MGA officers.

MGA was established three years ago and now has 30 active members made up of young and seniors, rookies and veterans, and men and women CNMI residents who enjoy playing golf.

JON PEREZ

A member of the Marianas Golf Association lines up a putt in this file photo taken during one of their monthly tournaments. The group's December Ace of the Month and yearend tournament is set tomorrow at the Marianas Country Club.

Curry scores 40, Warriors top Hornets to go 20-0

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SIS sweeps MCS in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School 1 recovered from a slow start to beat Mt. Carmel School, 25-22, 25-13, in their title match in the boys high school division of the 2015-2016 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League yesterday at the Geckos' court in As Lito.

The Geckos fell behind early, 3-11, before rallying back in the first set. Then in the second set it pulled away after MCS knotted the count at 5-all to clinch the division championship.

The Knights enjoyed the 8-point advantage in the opening set behind the booming spikes of Seok Jun Yun, who also drew some help from Quinn Amog, while SIS 1 could not get their offense going, starting out flat in its home turf.

Sensing trouble, SIS 1 coach Mychal Omar sued for time and told his boys to hit down the line, just like that they did against GCA in the semifinals, going for the spikes outside the Knights'

See SIS on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan International School's Luther Lizama goes up for a slide attack against three Mt. Carmel School blockers during the second set of their title game in the boys high school division of the COPSSA volleyball league yesterday at the SIS court in As Lito.

'The Crank' fails to make weight

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Camacho

Frank "The Crank" Camacho's title hopes in Pacific Xtreme Combat were quashed yesterday after he failed to make weight in time for his title bout with Guam's Tyrone "Bones" Jones in tonight's PXC 50.

Camacho (17-3, 13 knockouts) was supposed to face the Guam Muay Thai bet Jones (5-4, 3KOs) for the vacant PXC lightweight belt in the main event at the University of Guam Calvo Fieldhouse in Mangilao.

Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez said in a Facebook message to the *Saipan Tribune* that Camacho did not meet the 155-lb limit in yesterday's weigh in at Cars Plus in Maite. He added that Camacho was 3.9 lbs overweight.

Alvarez said the main event will still continue but Camacho, if he wins, will not get the belt.

"If Jones wins, he gets the title plus Frank has to pay 80 percent of his purse toward penalties to [his opponent]," said Alvarez.

Despite failing to make the weight that disqualified him for winning the lightweight belt, Alvarez said that Camacho took it positively.

"Everything is still all good. Rules are rules. Frank is much better now, though he was severely dehydrated [before the weigh in]. He's in good spirits and at least he still gets to fight," Alvarez said.

Three other CNMI fighters will also see action in the undercard bouts with Alvarez's son Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez facing Japanese Yutaro Muramoto in a bantamweight match.

Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez, Shane's cousin, will take on New Zealand's Mark Abelardo in a featherweight bout, while Josh "Chaos" Duenas hopes for some redemption when he collides with another New Zealander, Kai Cara-France, in the flyweight division.

Cuki Alvarez and Ken "Kamikazi" Tanzawa will act as the cornerment of the CNMI fighters.

Yusuke Yachi of Japan will defend his PXC featherweight title against Alex Volkanovski in the semi main event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Carol Lee, Tania Tan, and Ken Song pose for a photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport last Wednesday morning before they leave for Melbourne, Australia.

CNMI jr. tennis players begin bid in Australia

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The CNMI's Tania Tan, Carol Lee, and Ken Song left Saipan last Wednesday to compete in the 2015 14/U Australian Championships that will kick off this Saturday at Melbourne Park.

The three Commonwealth junior tennis players are part of the Pacific GSDF Touring Team.

Grand Slam Development Fund, according to the International Tennis Federation website, is a program that selects talented players from developing tennis nations and sends them to higher-level events outside their region. ITF added that "the touring team is an integral part of the development program and aims to facilitate the transition of talented players through regional and international junior competitions and where possible on to the professional ranks."

Tan and company will be joined later in Melbourne by Robbie Schorr, Conatsu Kaga, and coach Jeff Race. Other members of the elite group are Tahiti's Jeremy Guines and Naia Guitton. Schorr is expected to leave Saipan this weekend, while Kaga will head to Australia next week with Race, as she will be playing in the U12 age group competition.

The CNMI players will be suiting up in the Land Down Under tournament after a successful campaign in the opening week of the 7th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Schorr won the boys U14 singles crown against Song and together they prevailed in the doubles event. Lee topped the co-ed U18 singles, while Tan bagged the girls U16 doubles tiara with Isabel Heras and finished runner-up to the latter. Kaga clinched the girls U14 doubles title with Miyawaki and placed second in the singles against her doubles teammate.

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